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NATIONAL EYE HEALTH WEEK
MONDAY 19th - SUNDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2016
SEE OUR FEATURE ON PAGE 21
YOUR VISION MATTERS

Christmas Party Guide
Pages 22-23

Local families head for Cardiff and run for Nicola's 'Misfits'



Photo by MANDY THOMAS

A PARTY of almost 50 from around Pontycymmer and Bridgend – running as Nicola Parsons' 'Misfits' – were out in force last weekend at the Kidney Wales 10K and 2K runs in Cardiff.

Nicola, from Bridgend, donated a kidney to her husband Alan eight years ago, but the transplant did not succeed, after his body started rejecting it.

A second transplant followed, but there were problems with that too.

Last year, after renal specialists had tried a number of treatments, Alan had to go back on dialysis.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

GOLD FOR ALED SION!

BRIDGEND'S Aled Sion Davies broke the Paralympic record in Rio de Janeiro to win the F42 shot put gold medal.

Aled, aged 25, will return to south Wales a hero after throwing the record-breaking distance of 15.97 metres.

Ogmore Vale man's 10-year sentence for 'act of revenge'

A YOUNG man was left for dead when a gang of three, armed with an axe, an iron bar and a baseball bat were involved in carrying out an attack on him, writes AJ SICLUNA.

At one point, as they fled, one of the gang shouted: "He's dead, he's dead."

Steven Hatch, then 20, suffered multiple head and face fractures, underwent extensive surgery, and received psychiatric treatment, Cardiff Crown Court heard.

Jason Humble (51), formerly of Ogmore Vale, was jailed for 10 years, four months after pleading guilty to a charge of wounding with intent.

Humble had been on the run for 10 years after the incident, said prosecutor Matthew Roberts.

The court heard that Humble had been sentenced in 1998 to 12 years for a double manslaughter involving driving into a car and killing two of the occupants.

Mr Roberts said the attack on Mr Hatch occurred on December 2, 2006.

Mr Hatch was out with friends in Commercial Street, Ogmore Vale, and had only a vague recollection of what occurred.

Said Mr Roberts: "A red van pulled up and three men dressed in black, wearing balaclavas got out. Their manner indicated there was a substantial degree of premeditation and organisation."

Mr Hatch was struck with an axe and a baseball bat.

He lost consciousness, fell to the ground and was hit twice.

Mr Roberts said it was accepted that Humble had a baseball bat but

didn't use it to cause injury.

The trio drove off towards Nantymoel and their vehicle was later found burned out.

Earlier in the day, said Mr Roberts, the injured man's brother was told that Mr Hatch was "going to get it."

Fortunately, said Mr Roberts, the victim did not suffer any brain damage.

Humble's counsel, Robert Ward, said he deserved credit for his guilty plea. He said it was accepted that he "made himself scarce"

for some time.

Humble's role, he said, was subordinate.

"I have to admit it was not a random incident, which made it difficult for Humble to rationalise his behaviour. The situation spiralled out of control."

Judge Eleri Rees said: "This was a joint enterprise – an act of revenge."

Regarding the manslaughter, she said Humble had driven deliberately into another vehicle, killing two people.

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BRIDGEND PLANNING

Squire/Paul/Washbourne/Scott – First and second floor 12, Dunraven Place, Bridgend – Proposed re-development of existing offices into six number residential units on first and second floor levels. Mr Steven Moss – Ashton House, Cefn Road, Cefn Cribwr – Extensions and roof remodelling. Mr and Mrs Bater – Whitehall Cottage, Court Colman Road, Penyfai – Proposed extension and refurbishment works. Miss Kelly Edwards – 47 Banc Yr Allt, Bryntirion – Cut back overhanging branches of protected trees at rear of garden. Network Rail Infrastructure Projects – Cardiff to Swansea railway line – Great Western Electrification (Cardiff to Swansea). Hannah Johnson – 49 New Road, Porthcawl – Retrospective consent for change of use from funeral services to beauty salon. Leyshon Flint and Sons – Penyfai Service Station, Penyfai – Non material amendment to P/15/565/FUL for provision of 31 car parking spaces. Mr Anthony Olding – Former Bridgend Pupil Referral Unit, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig – Change of use from Bridgend Pupil Referral Unit to B1 Business (offices). Owen G Motors – Dunraven Business Park, Bridgend – Two new highway signs 800mm x 1m. Mr Lee – 129 Ewenny Road, Bridgend – Side and rear extension. H3G Limited – Telecoms site BGD004 A4106 Bridgend Road, Porthcawl – Telecoms prior notification for 11.7m phase 4 monopole with wrap around

diplexor cabinet at base and pogona cabinet 1230 x 400 x 1032.

Mr Victoria Cannon – 2 Dunraven Place, Bridgend – Change of use from AS1 to A2 (solicitor).

Mr Shayban Al-Ibrahim – 9 Talbot Street, Maesteg – Approval of details for conditions 4 and 5 of P/16/329/FUL; approval for details of condition 2 of P/16/357/FUL.

Mr and Mrs A Long – 15 Ogmore Drive, Porthcawl – Rear single storey kitchen and family room extension. Mr G Hendry – 19 Dan y Deri, Broadlands, Bridgend – Single storey extension for kitchen and family room.

Mr David Perry – Land adjacent Delfryn, Maudlam – Approval of details for condition 3 of P/15/389/FUL.

Mr Gareth Davies – Former chapel site adjacent 3 Waun Bant Road, Kenfig Hill – Approval of details for conditions 3, 4, 6 and 8 of P/15/715/FUL.

Matthew Close – 2 Heol Blandy, Broadlands – Single storey rear extension.

BCBC Highways Services – Next to 10 Llwyn Gwern, Pencoed – Crown lift ash tree and remove damaged branches.

Mr Rhys Garfield – Cynhordy Farm, Llangwynnyd, Maesteg – Approval of details for conditions 2 and 3 of P/16/383/FUL.

Mrs Lesley Jones – Bridge Street, Blaengarw – Change of use commercial shop to domestic flat at ground floor.

Mrs Ann Kinsey – Lletai House, Glanrafon Road, Pencoed – Convert part of existing garage into habitable room and single storey extension.

Young Farmers let their hair down

TUESDAY, September 6 was a fun-packed evening in the village of Cefn Cribbwr for Bridgend Young Farmers Club (YFC) who held a most successful recruitment evening with 46 people in attendance and 16 new faces eager to join the club.

The evening was full of fun and games – where old friends and new friends mingled, laughed and had a jolly good time.

Bridgend YFC is a youth organisation for 10-26-year-olds in the rural community, although you do not have to be a farmer to join in.

We meet on Tuesday at 7.30pm in the Royal Legion Club in Cefn Cribbwr. For more information, find us on Facebook at Bridgend YFC.

TABITHA ANTHONY, press officer, Bridgend YFC

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

'RESPECT WISHES OF THE MAJORITY'

I BELIEVE that over the last 30 years we have become immune to the hypocrisy of our politicians both at local and national levels.

It now appears that the only way that 'EU Remain' campaigners can express themselves is to emulate our politicians. The letter last week from

'Stop moaning about Brexit'

IN answer to Mr Marc Delaney, because you lost don't throw your toys out of the pram.

There were plenty of lies told on both sides, but the vote was decided.

I never voted for the current party in power, but I cannot ask for another election.

The people voted, so did the MPs, so let's get on with it.

Keith Croft, Brynna.

'Remainers intolerant of democratic will'

I WONDER if I might be able to make a request of serial EU referendum remoaners such as Marc Delaney – that they try to regain a little self respect and dignity and give their little foot-stamping tantrums in The GEM'S letters page a rest.

I'm sure that those of us who voted to leave the EU recognise that only Marc and his fellow belligerent remanics were intelligent enough to understand the mass of information that was freely available, delivered by post, online and in the media in regard to the issues involved, in order to make an informed decision on the merits or otherwise of EU membership. And also that the rest of us couldn't possibly have been intelligent enough to be trusted with our traditional right to vote.

I'm sure that all of us recognise that only future referendum and

election results that meet with Marc Delaney's approval can be deemed fully valid as he has self-appointed himself arbiter general of all things constitutional, and I would highlight the huge benefit of the substantial savings to the public purse if only Marc is allowed to vote in the future.

If nothing else has been achieved following the recent EU referendum, I feel that a great service has been delivered to the British public by highlighting the intolerance and refusal to accept the democratic will of the electorate when it diverges with the political views of vast swathes of our political class, along with numbers of intolerant refuseniks such as Marc Delaney.

It seems that yet again many of those who espouse the merits of democracy really mean 'only democratic votes that go their way', otherwise those votes must be deemed invalid.

Kevin Mahoney, Councillor for Sully and Lavernock.

Mr Delaney is an excellent example of this.

Mr Delaney is – we know from previous letters – a keen supporter of the Welsh Assembly.

Yet he apparently feels that our democracy is flawed when 72 per cent of the electorate turn out for the Brexit referendum.

He would do well to recall that the turnout for the Assembly Referenda peaked at 50 per cent and fell to a low of 36 per cent.

Yet he happily accepts the results of those referenda. Democracy, it appears, is fine when the result is the one that Mr Delaney favours.

It really is time that the EU Remain brigade accepted democracy and respected the wishes of the majority.

One thing we can agree on is that the Brexit referendum was based on a pack of lies. Let's briefly look at some of those lies.

We were told that if we voted to leave the EU – not leave, just voted to leave, then the following would befall us...

From the office of the PM: If we voted to leave then we face the prospect of World War Three. Really!

From the Chancellor: A vote to leave will trigger an immediate austerity budget and a fall in house prices. Wrong on both counts.

From the Governor of the Bank of England and various Government economic advisors: "The stock market will collapse" – the reality is that the market is above pre-referendum levels.

"Unemployment will rise" – we have seen unemployment fall since the referendum.

"Our exports will collapse" – we have seen an increase in the levels of exports in the latest reported figures.

"We will face the immediate prospect of a recession" – this has not happened.

"The EU will refuse to trade freely with us". This beggars belief given that EU countries would see a major decline in their economies.

Interestingly Mr Delaney then uses mind reading skills. He tells us that had the electorate not listened to the lies then the referendum result would have been much different.

With what can only be described as utter contempt for the intelligence of the electorate Mr Delaney also tells us that "many did not vote because they were too confused to vote".

I do not claim to be a mind reader and neither would I insult those that chose not to vote; none-the-less I am left wondering, had the Remain campaign not resorted to fear, terror and lies whether the result would have been an even greater majority voting to leave the EU.

Finally, although I am happy for my name to be printed I can understand the fear of many Brexit voters given the levels of abuse generated by Remain supporters.

John A Turner, Rhosce.

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'A future under the EU was uncertain'

Interestingly, your previously pro-EU correspondent agrees now that Brexit will take us out of the frying pan which is the EU.

The long list of areas over which the UK government will resume control simply shows how much power of self determination we have lost.

We never had a referendum on giving it all away but now, perversely, some people want another referendum on taking it back!

What "exactly" will Brexit will look like? Well, what "exactly" would staying in have looked like?

How will the EU save its ill-starred and hubristic Euro and the hopelessly insolvent Italian banks?

With an EU income tax perhaps? There are

moves to give us all an EU tax reference number.

Would our own armed forces have come under a European army's control? Goodbye regional funding when Albania, Montenegro, Serbia et al join the EU.

No-one knows "exactly" what will or would have happened, but outside the EU we shall have more control over our own affairs than if we were governed by the unelected and unaccountable cabal which is the European Commission.

Meanwhile, the EU economy stagnates, the Brexit recession refuses to happen and negotiations continue for the UK's own non EU trade deals.

R Bradshaw, Cowbridge.

'Nazi helmet shame' of motorcyclist

AS I and my father, who is 94, were walking along Cowbridge High Street at around 5.30pm recently, we heard a motorcycle approach.

It was a big, loud one and the rider appeared to have affected the dress of a 'Hell's Angel'.

"Each unto their own," I thought.

However, my father, a veteran of World War Two, stood and stared. The rider was wearing a Nazi era helmet.

My father, who has less than pleasant memories of fighting men who were wearing

the 'stahlhelm', men who had killed his comrades and slaughtered Jews and other civilians by the thousand, was appalled.

He drew himself up like a ramrod and was marching over like a man 70 years his junior to remonstrate with the rider when he rode off.

It is disgusting that this symbol of oppression and violence should be an acceptable accessory. I hope all right-minded motorcyclists will shun and shame this dreadful man!

Tanya Millibank, Llantwit Major.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL SEPTEMBER 22)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

| DATE | Time | Ht | Time | Ht |
|---------|-------|------|-------|------|
| | AM | M | PM | M |
| 15 Thur | 05.59 | 9.2 | 18.23 | 9.7 |
| 16 Fri | 06.48 | 9.8 | 19.07 | 10.3 |
| 17 Sat | 07.29 | 10.5 | 19.51 | 10.6 |
| 18 Sun | 08.11 | 10.5 | 20.32 | 10.7 |
| 19 Mon | 08.56 | 10.5 | 21.14 | 10.7 |
| 20 Tues | 09.35 | 10.5 | 21.59 | 10.3 |
| 21 Wed | 10.15 | 10.1 | 22.42 | 9.7 |
| 22 Thur | 11.03 | 9.5 | 23.31 | 9.2 |

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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COITY BROWNIES' SLEEPOVER IN THE NATIONAL LIBRARY!



The Porthcawl Primary School to employ the 'Self Improving School'

PORTHCAWL Primary School has become the only school in the Bridgend area to be selected as a curriculum hub for the 'Self Improving School System' initiative.

by **EMILY WOOD**

The idea behind the scheme, initially created in 2014, is to share best practice between schools, allowing them to work together to self improve. As a 'hub', Porthcawl Primary will be working closely with local authorities and over 13 schools in the Bridgend area to share their expertise in literacy later this month. The school was selected

due to the efforts of both staff and pupils, as more than 50 per cent of students who left the school recently achieved the highest possible grade in writing. Deputy headteacher Evan Richards will be leading the programme thanks to his knowledge and experience in literacy development, having previously held the position of lead teacher for literacy for the City of Westminster. Through the project, Porthcawl Primary will be aiming to provide an innovative way of teaching visual literacy

through the use of picture, text, film clips and sound to effectively develop students' writing skills whilst providing them with a 'fun and interactive learning environment'.

The headteacher Andrew Wood said: "We are delighted to have been selected to share our practices in teaching and literacy."

"It has had an important effect on raising standards in the school."

"We hope that by assisting and supporting schools in the programme it will raise standards even further in their own schools as well as in ours."

Building support for regional RNLI



Carl Reed and Chris Hobbs of Kier Construction, Coxswain Jon Atkins and mechanic Richard Tutton RNLI Barry Dock.

FBE Cambria, the forum for the property, development, construction and infrastructure industries in south-east Wales, has organised a cycle ride on September 23 to help raise funds for RNLI lifeboat stations in Penarth, Barry Dock and Porthcawl.

The ride will depart from the Barry RNLI visitors' centre and travel to Porthcawl Lifeboat Station before returning to Barry.

Paul Gardner, sales and marketing director of Prescott Jones Property and Construction Risks, and current chairman of FBE Cambria, said: "Our charity cycle ride each year has become a popular event and key to our overall fundraising efforts. No-one

could have failed to miss work of the work of the RNLI in high-profile incidents in recent weeks. I am proud of our industry's efforts to raise funding for their work in our area."

"I would like to acknowledge the financial support of Kier Construction, Rio Architects, McCann and Partners, and my own organisation, Prescott Jones, which means that every single penny raised in this event will go to the RNLI."

Jen Abell, community fundraising manager for RNLI said: "It's fantastic that FBE Cambria chose RNLI as their charity for 2016. Without being chosen by organisations such as this, the RNLI couldn't continue to save lives."

Those wishing to take part in the event can register at www.fbeonline.co.uk.

SEVEN youngsters from 1st Coity Brownies joined more than 110 other Brownies and 40 leaders at the National Library of Wales - for the first ever sleepover on September 2.

They attended the sleepover with their Brownie leader, Helen Pickett, where the girls from all across Wales spent the evening exploring the library and learning about the Girlguiding Cymru exhibition 'Pushing Boundaries'.

The exhibition has been on display at the library since April and traces the history of Girlguiding Cymru from its establishment in 1910 to the present day, showing how it has had an effect on the lives of girls over the years.

At the sleepover, there were lots of activities to keep the Brownies entertained, with the theme of 'Brownies over the last 100 years', from learning about old challenge badges to imagining their version of 'Brownies in the future'.

The evening finished off with a fish and chip supper before settling

down with their torches and sleeping bags.

Up bright and early the next day, the Brownies visited the exhibition, where a short closing ceremony took place and several Brownies told the audience about the best bits of the unique sleepover.

The girls agreed that it was one of the most unusual places they've ever slept.

Chief Commissioner, Lesley Mathews, who attended the sleepover, said: "It was fantastic to have so many Brownies from across Wales celebrating the success of our exhibition."

"Thank you to the team at the National Library for your hospitality and for hosting the exhibition and making it a great success."

Linda Tomos, national librarian of The National Library of Wales said: "It was great to welcome so many young people to the library for such an exciting and memorable event."

"I hope that we have the opportunity to arrange similar ones before too long."

For more information about how to get involved with Girlguiding, visit www.girlguiding.org.uk.

AM's concerns over Cornelly recycling plant

WELSH Conservative regional AM has added her objections to others opposing plans by South Wales Wood Recycling Ltd to open a centre in South Cornelly.

She is backing residents opposed to the plan for a centre on land behind the filling station and industrial estate.

She said: "This is the same company that operates the old Llynfi Power Station site where a fire broke out earlier this year, so there must be the fullest scrutiny of any application they make."

"This scheme has the potential to damage both the health and residential

amenity of residents living close by.

"Air quality is a major consideration because the dust from wood chip can be carcinogenic and can significantly affect quality of life, exacerbating lung and heart conditions."

"This area has working quarries and already suffers from dust emissions. The cumulative effect of these emissions must be considered."

Ms Davies said she was also worried about the pollution created by the lorries that will deliver to this plant and believes that the plant could turn into "a never-ending environmental nightmare for the local community."

Developer's new warehouse increases worldwide business

DEVELOPER Robert Hitchins Ltd is to build a new warehouse at Central Park on Bridgend Industrial Estate, opening the door for tenant PCI Pharma Services to expand.

Robert Hitchins Ltd has received planning permission from Bridgend County Borough Council to increase the size of the approved building.

The developers will provide 37,500 square feet in one unit for PCI Pharma Services, which will increase the range of modern industrial buildings at Central Park, as well as allowing PCI Pharma to grow.

The new unit, a steel portal frame construction, will incorporate warehouse and office areas.

PCI Pharma Services (formerly Biotech Services International) has been a tenant on the estate since 2007 and is reportedly the global healthcare industry's leading packaging solutions provider.

PCI senior vice president Richard

Yarwood said: "We see this investment as a tremendous opportunity to expand our capacity and capability in anticipation of continued growth."

"We see significant demand for supporting our pharmaceutical and biotech clients with their investigational medicines and the Bridgend site is well positioned to help us realise our growth plans."

Asset and development manager for Robert Hitchins, John Jones, said the development represented confidence in Bridgend: "This reinvestment into Bridgend is good news for Central Park. We're delighted to be in a position to provide a high-quality unit for an expanding global business."

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Dance Steps

Learn how to dance like the stars and be the envy of your friends at the Christmas Party!

NEW ADULT CLASSES COMMENCING

(couples and single people welcome)

THE GATHERING PLACE, ST ATHAN

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PONTYCLUN ATHLETIC CLUB Tuesday 20th September from 7pm

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JACK FOILS THE OPPOSITION!



CCTV footage may identify litter louts

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

As a result, said Coun John, LFI will organise "weekend litter squads" to help clear the mess, should similar occur again.

He described the littering as "far and beyond" the routine detritus from fast-food outlets dropped on a weekend, and added: "It could be seen as a deliberate act of vandalism by people with no respect for our town."

He said that he would review CCTV images of Boverton Road with the police to determine if the alleged

culprits can be identified.

Coun John praised the Vale Council's street-cleaning teams, and added that they do "a good job, but can't be here all the time".

The volunteer litter squads are, he said: "...a practical demonstration of the pride we have in our town and the importance of keeping it clean".

The GEM approached both South Wales Police and the Vale Council for comment, but none had been received by the time the newspaper went to press.

ABOVE: The Welsh fencing team, with Jack Cafaro (reclining front centre to the left) who landed a gold medal at the 2016 National School Games, which took place in Loughborough University, along with Heulwen Hill, also from Llantwit Major (back row, eighth from right)



COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is
NANCY DAVIDGE
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
**TREOES, LLANGAN
& ST MARY HILL**

Llangan school

THE children at the school are very excited as they will perform at the school with *Phantom Of The Opera* star Peter Karie on Friday, October 14.

The concert will begin at 6.30pm, and tickets will be on sale soon.

Deputy head

I am sure that Llangan School's newly-appointed deputy headteacher, Mr Marc Sinnett, will become as popular as his predecessors.

St Canna's Church, Llangan

ST CANNA'S harvest thanksgiving service will take place on Sunday, September 25 at 11.15am.

Everyone is assured of a warm welcome at this important celebration in our community.

Saturday, October 1

St Canna's will be holding its annual autumn fair from 10am - 12.30pm.

As in previous years, there will be something for all the family including stalls with homemade cakes and produce, flowers and tombola and a children's area.

Old Hall Bridge Club results

OLD Hall Bridge Club results for the last two weeks:

Wednesday, August 31: 1st Allan Lewis & John Raymond 73.21%, 2nd Barbara Easterbrook and Margaret Bancroft 61.90%, 3rd Barbara Exton & Eleanor Jones 58.93%.

Wednesday, September 7: 1st Sara Bartlett & James Mangles 57.94%, 2nd Allan Lewis & John Raymond 53.97%, 3rd Mearl Owen & Margaret Williams 53.17%. JM

Museum's murky mug mystery

THE Cowbridge and District Museum has recently come into the possession of a small brown mug made by Ewenny Pottery celebrating 'Victory Day' on June 8, 1946.

Are there families who were living in the Cowbridge and Llanbleddian areas at that time who have one of these mugs? I ask this because I believe that they were never distributed and were for some reason destroyed, with only a small amount of them escaping destruction and were saved.

If there is anyone who has one of these mugs, and better still, any information relating to them, the volunteers at the museum would love to know, so we can place this information with the mug.

The museum is open on the first Saturday of the month. Readers can contact the museum by emailing info@cowbridge-museum.org.uk, or visiting our website on www.cowbridge-museum.org.



Steve Harkett
Cowbridge and District
Museum Trust

Do any GEM readers have one of these?

Dyeing workshop and a harvest celebration

A NATURAL dyeing workshop and harvest celebration with Cowbridge Community Allotments takes place on Saturday, September 24.

A spokeswoman said: "Make your own uniquely designed beautiful silk scarf using the bundle dyeing technique with natural plant materials."

"Eva from The Flower Hive, Pencoeed, will talk about using and cultivating plant material for natural dyeing and help you create a masterpiece!"

"The workshop is funded by Grow Wild - a Lottery grant which the community allotments have

received this year at Cowbridge Lesser Hall, (11.30 to 2.30pm). This will include a walk over to the allotments to gather materials. The first 10 places are free, then £8 each to cover materials. Email debbie.leigh65@gmail.com to book a place.

"At 3pm it's all hands to the wheelbarrows to weed and mulch the Grow Wild community orchard - planted earlier this year. Please bring gloves and suitable footwear."

This will be followed by bring-and-share barbecue at 4pm. Adults and children welcome. Allotment members will be on hand to show people around the site. "Grow Wild is the

UK's biggest ever wild flower campaign, bringing people together to transform local spaces with native, pollinator-friendly wild flowers and plants."

"The allotment site is under the bypass behind Millfield Drive - accessed via the footpath from the rear of the town hall car park, or from the track between Cow-bridge Comprehensive School sports pitches on the Aberthin Road, where there is parking space."

For more information visit www.cowbridgeca.bick.co.uk or the Cow-bridge Community Allotments page on Facebook. DL

ENTERTAINMENT ON 'BIG SCREEN'

BIG Screen - Cowbridge's community cinema - is about to start another season of films in the Town Hall, which has a modern electric screen and projection system, and also ice creams in the interval.

Make a note of Thursday each month for nights to remember!

On September 22, *Golden Oldies* is an all-British heist film about amateur crooks attempting to rob banks because they refuse to accept the loss of their pensions when their

former employer goes bust. The film has a wealth of well known stars including Alun Armstrong, Bernard Hill, Una Stubbs, Simon Callow and many more. The film is a 'Cert 12A'.

The screening on October 27 is *Black Mountain Poets* (Cert 15), a British comedy set in the Black Mountains of Wales.

Two lorry hi-jacking sisters are trying to avoid capture by joining a set of misguided hippy poets, and love interest provided by Aberystwyth-born Tom Cullen from Downton Abbey.

A film to inspire all those who think they can sing, but can't really is the November 24 film *Florence Foster Jenkins* (Cert PG), the true story of a New York heiress with ambitions of becoming an opera star.

Florence (Meryl Streep) is loyally supported by her husband (Hugh Grant), but it is Carlo Edwards (the wonderful David Haig) who finally helps her overcome her appalling voice in order to realise her dreams.

Based on the novel by John le Carré, the December 15 film is the tense thriller *Our Kind of Traitor* (Cert 15). Two young people find themselves enticed into a Russian oligarch's plans to defect.

They are soon trapped between the Russian mafia and the Secret Intelligence Service. Who can they trust?

Tickets are £4 in advance from the town clerk's office in the Town Hall or on the door.

All performances start at 7.30pm and doors are open at 7.10pm. DICK BUSWELL

ANNE SAYS 'THANK YOU FOR HELP'

FOLLOWING the Cowbridge on the Run event for Cancer Research UK, the organiser Anne Birt was keen to highlight the contribution of key people who were vital to the day's success.

She said: "I'd like to thank Tom and Lynne, the First Responders, and Aubrey Parsons and Justin Isaac for their invaluable help with the sound system."

The event raised £1,500 for the charity.

Llantrisant and District Proboscis Club

THE last quarter saw good attendance at monthly meetings, and three inter-esting and lively speakers.

The club under the leadership of its chairman, Bill Pearce, is growing in membership despite the deaths of a couple of members in the third quarter.

For the last quarter of 2016, the programme will include the follow-

ing three speakers: October 18, a talk by Bill Thomas on 'Salem'; November 15, a talk by John Sheen (by popular request); December 20, Peter Cox will speak about GCHQ.

Why not come along to one of the meetings at 10.30am at Pontyclun Rugby Club on the third Tuesday of each month and be favourably surprised and entertained in convivial company? BILL THOMAS



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HOSPITAL PROVIDES ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR CARERS



Victoria Rodwell

CARERS get a helping hand at Princess of Wales Hospital thanks to a full-time carer support worker, Victoria Rodwell, who is now based there following the success of a pilot project.

Victoria's role involves visiting wards and departments, liaising with staff to identify carers and ensuring that get whatever advice and support they might need.

The service is provided through an integrated ABMU Health Board and Bridgend Council partnership with Bridgend Carers Centre.

Victoria said: "There's a range of things we can do for carers. For some people it's just having the right information at the right time."

"They can take the information away and might not need any extra support right then but will know who to call if there was a problem."

Victoria also carries out carers' assessments to support them through and after hospital discharge, and directs to relevant services available in Princess of Wales, such as Care and Repair, Age Connects Morgannwg and the hospital discharge

service, as well as third sector organisations in the community, such as the Alzheimer's Society.

Bridgend Carers Centre offers a range of services including legal and benefits advice, information on respite care, counselling and more.

Victoria said carers were encouraged to recognise they had to look after their own health and wellbeing.

"If they become unwell then they are not able to look after the person they are caring for."

"We're looking at it in a more holistic way than just looking at the patient. We're looking at everybody that's involved."

Princess of Wales Hospital director Jamie Marchant has stated: "We are very proud of our work with Bridgend Carers Centre - we recognise how important carers are to the patient."

"It's very important we understand the needs of the patient and the needs of the carers around them to meet their requirements."

"It's also very important to recognise that nearly 3,000 people work in this hospital and many of our staff are carers themselves outside their working hours."

Memorial concert remembers Merlin

TABERNACLE Chapel at Pontycymer will be the venue for the Merlyn Mad-dock MBE, memorial concert supporting Parkinson's.

A son of the valley, the Concert is at 7pm on Friday, September 23. The compere is BBC news anchor, presenter and journalist, Huw Edwards, who is making a welcome return to Pontycymer.

Merlyn's life and achievements will give Huw plenty of material for what is anticipated to be a very interesting contribution.

The musical entertainment on the evening will be provided by Bridgend Male Choir, of which Mr Edwards is a patron; the harp and vocal trio, Eos, and the School Choir of Ffaldau Primary. Ticket sales have been brisk. Enquiries to Dave and Joan Davison on 01656 658273.



Brynteg pupils perform a real Broadway classic



BRYNTEG Comprehensive School will perform *Annie* at The Grand Pavilion Porthcawl, from October 19 to 21.

A school spokeswoman said: "Annie is an uplifting musical about the ever-hopeful Annie (Sadie Hennessey), and her journey through 1930s New York to find her parents. Escaping the evil Miss Hannigan (Georgia Coombes), she makes her way to the mansion of the billionaire, Oliver Warbucks (Angus Gregory)."

"Together, they take the search for Annie's parents across the country, even visiting the President."

The show is presented by a cast of more than 100 pupils from years 8 to 13.

Tickets are now on sale, with a special offer for a family ticket of four.

Council warns public about rates band scam

BRIDGEND county borough residents are being warned to look out for a scam which claims they can get their council tax band reduced if they pay a fee.

Several local residents have contacted Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) after they received telephone calls from scammers, claiming to be from the 'Ministry of Justice', who say that it will be possible to re-band their property in return for an upfront payment of £65.

The hoaxers go on to ask for confidential bank account details and householders who fall victim to the scam subsequently find that their bank accounts have been raided.

Coun Hywel Williams, the council's cabinet member for resources, said: "BCBC will never phone you out of the blue to ask for your bank account details over the

telephone. This is similar to other council tax scams that have also done the rounds in previous years, and we're urging residents not to provide any bank details to these fraudsters."

"From the reports we have received so far, it seems as though these latest scammers are targeting older members of the community in particular, so please be vigilant."

Residents who may have already given their account details over the phone are advised to contact their banks as soon as possible.

If you believe you've received a similar call, contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 040506 (for a service in the Welsh language call 03454 040505) or email tradingstandards@bridgend.gov.uk. Scams can also be reported to South Wales Police via the 101 non-emergency number.

Go to the **Bridgend & Porthcawl GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news

There's lots more online...



www.bridgend-today.co.uk
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

Conservative regional AM's 'concern' over Post Office move

WELSH Conservative regional AM Suzy Davies has added her support to Bridgend traders fighting plans by the Post Office to move its branch from Dunraven Place to the basement of WH Smith's in the Rhw Centre.

She has backed the campaign to get the bottom half of the town centre re-opened to traffic and a petition earlier this year called for the pedestrianisation of Queen Street, Dunraven Place and Market Street to be reversed - so that shoppers can drive in and park.

She said: "The post office is a major draw to this part of town and traders fear that if it moves, fewer people will go there, affecting other businesses nearby."

"I have written to the Post Office to object to these proposals and also

to raise concerns about safety. I have worries about locating what is a very busy post office in the basement of a shop."

The regional AM has expressed concern about the fire safety aspect of using the basement if it becomes a post office.

Ms Davies is also worried about what will happen to the existing post office site if the move takes place.

She said: "Traders are keen to retain the post office there but if it goes, we need a business to replace it that will act as a draw to the bottom end of town."

"I hope to contact the owners if the move goes ahead to find out what their plans are to ensure that this important site contributes to the vibrancy and regeneration of Dunraven Place."

Talk on WWII prison camp

THERE will be a talk on the WWII prison camp at Island Farm, Bridgend, by local historian Mike Clubb in St Donat Arts Centre on Thursday, September 22, at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £8, including tea or coffee. For more information, go to www.stdonats.com or telephone 01446 799100.

Photographs by Emily March.

HUGH JAMES

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Becoming a 'Master of Wine' is a testing process

THERE was great news this week for Cowbridge resident **Richard Ballantyne** – but the sting in the tail is that he may now be the town's most intimidating dinner guest.

After all, when planning a soiree or dinner party, it can be tricky choosing the right wine to accompany your latest attempt to create a Masterchef show-stopper.

Think how scary it could get if one of your guests is a 'Master of Wine'!

What's more, the title Master of Wine (MW) is no ten-a-penny correspondence course. In the world today there are only 353, scattered through 28 countries, and this Monday Richard was one of 13 new masters!

The name Ballantyne's is well known in Cowbridge. The wine merchants in

Westgate was run by Richard and his father, and it closed in 2006.

They also had a similar store in Pontcanna, Cardiff, from 2002 to 2011.

Although Richard studied electronic engineering, the wine business was always beckoning, and he joined the family business in 1991 at the age of 18.

Richard told The GEM: "Since the Pontcanna store closed, I have worked for three wine importing companies.

"In 2011, I joined wholesaler Matthew Clark as their wine development specialist for London in the new business team, and a year or so later became regional account manager for Armit Wines.

"I spent four years there working with the great retailers and wholesalers of the UK with a portfolio heavy with the great producers of Italy."

by **PHILIP IRWIN**



Richard Ballantyne.

Richard is now UK accounts manager for Vinexus, a specialist importer of Italian wines, and readers may have guessed by now that Italy has become his obsession, more precisely the great wines of Piedmont.

Apart from being hooked on the Nebbiolo grape – most associated with Barolo and Barbaresco wines – Richard is interested in wines which show 'authenticity of style', wherever they may come from, but invariably this leads him back to his home turf of Italy.

The Masters of Wine examination consists of three stages – theory and practical first – followed by a research paper, an in-depth study on a wine-related topic from any area of the sciences, arts, humanities, or social sciences.

Theory is pretty much what it suggests – understanding the science of wine and all aspects of its production. You sit that in the morning, and come back in the afternoon for the practical.

It is in this session that

you find out if you have a good enough palate to become a Master of Wine.

Richard said: "I had been tasting wine since I was a child, so I was fairly confident about this."

"You have two minutes with each sample, and have to identify the grape, the region, and as much else as you can."

Incidentally, wine tasting is 70 per cent smell, so if you don't measure up in that area, master of wine is out of your reach!

Having passed the theory and the practical (in 2010), Richard moved on to the in-depth study.

His first effort was rejected. Standards are high, and he was bluntly told that it fell short.

It was time for a rethink and so, taking on board the criticisms of the first, he submitted a second, detailed study.

That was turned down too.

Richard was beginning to realise why it was not easy to be a MW!

So, he returned to his favourite wine, the complex red grown south of Turin called Barolo.

It is produced in a small area, with only 170 producers. It is a wine that has resisted modern production techniques. Screw tops, for instance, are illegal.

His research paper was entitled: "Barolo - Is there an economic benefit in producing under a Cru Label Designation? If there is, what are the reasons?"

This time, he found favour with the judges, and the big announcement came this week.

It means that if anyone in the world needs an expert in Barolo, Richard will be the one who will be recommended.

Barolo incidentally, ranges in price from £20 a bottle to £400. You may have seen bottles in supermarkets at around the £12 mark but, in Richard's opinion, these don't offer the true Barolo experience.

Later this year, Richard will be at the Vintner's Hall in London for his official induction as a Master of Wine.

After that, it will be back to the grindstone, assessing the new vintages in Tuscany, Piedmont, Chablis and Burgundy.

It's a tough job but....

GEM NOTE: This week's new Masters of Wine (MWs) live in eight countries – Australia, China, France, India, Ireland, Taiwan, the UK and the USA.

The new Masters of Wine are **Richard Ballantyne (UK); Bree Boskov (Australia); Barbara Boyle (Ireland); Matt Deller MW (USA); Matthew Forster (UK); Sonal Holland (India); Jeremy Lithgow (UK); Mary Margaret McCamie (USA); Iain Munson (France); Mick O'Connell (Ireland); Mark Pygott (Taiwan); Ana-Emilia Sapungiu (UK); Fongyee Walker (China).**

Brynteg's hosts 'open evening'

BRYNTEG Comprehensive School is hosting a year-5 and 6 open evening on Thursday, September 22.

There will be introductory talks and tours at 4:30pm or 5:30pm for year-6 pupils and parents/carers in the lower school hall.

There will be a talk and tour for year-5 pupils and parents/carers at 5pm in the upper school hall.

A school spokesperson said: "We have a strong tradition of high academic excellence in external examinations, and the school is rated by Welsh Government as Green 1 A, recognising our strong outcomes at GCSE."

"We also had a 100 per cent pass rate at A-Level, and 90 per cent of sixth form students who applied to university are going to their first choice."

"Pastoral support has been judged as outstanding in our most recent ESTYN inspection. We have a



dedicated and experienced transition team, and are the only local school to have a specialised 'Cluster Learning Support Officer' working with pupils during transition.

"There is a whole-school mentoring programme, providing your child with guidance and encouragement to maximise their potential in an inclusive environment."

The spokesperson added: "We have a long tradition of musical, sporting and cultural

excellence, a wide range of extra-curricular activities, extensive local, national and international charity work, world-wide educational visits with schools in France, Ireland and South America."

Find out more at the Brynteg School open evening on Thursday, September 22, or from admin@bryntegcs.bridgesch.uk; 01656 641800.

Forthcoming PACT meetings for October

PORTHCAWL WEST CENTRAL PACT at Trinity Church on Tuesday, October 4 at 7pm.

REST BAY and **NOTTAGE PACT** at Nottage Scout Hall, Nottage on Tuesday, October 11 at 8pm.

BRYNTIRION, LALESTON and **MERTHYR MAWR PACT** at Laleston Gardening Club, Laleston on Thursday, October 13 at 7pm.

LITCHARD, PENDRE and **COITY PACT** at Litchard Mission, Litchard on Thursday, October 27 at 7pm.

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New year-7s are off to a sporting start at Porthcawl Comp

THE new year-7 pupils at **Porthcawl Comprehensive School** have made a bright start.

They have already fully immersed themselves in school life, and none more so than the boys who make up our latest rugby squad.

The fledgling year-7 rugby team have already competed in the first of this season's Bridgend Schools Rugby Festivals held at Brynteg Comprehensive School.

The day saw the boys play teams from Brynteg, Bryntirion, Pencoed and Coleg y Dderwen. Encouragingly, Porthcawl were able to field two teams at the festival.

Both teams recorded notable victories under the watchful eye of Welsh national team coach Rob Howley. Perhaps he was on the lookout for the next Ryan Bevington or Tom Prydie!

The school game is buoyant at Porthcawl, thanks largely to the school partnership with the WRU and partner club Porthcawl RFC. The link between school, club and union is more important than ever for the future success of the game. The joyful performance of the young players at the recent festival is proof that the future of the game is bright in Porthcawl.

However, the year-7 rugby players



Abigail Davies.

were not the only ones who have been busy! The weekend before the new school term began, year-7 pupil **Abigail Davies** was away in Glasgow competing for Wales in the inter-regional Triathlon Championships at Strathclyde Park. Abi finished 29th out of 37 girls from across the UK and was the first Welsh girl across the finish line! She has only just turned 11 and was the youngest in the competition, with another year next season in this age category. A fantastic achievement!

ANDREW STRADLING

SPONSOR A 'PUDSEY SPOT'

Pudsey spots are ready on Kevin's car for your donations.

LOCAL driving instructor Kevin Jones is aiming to raise funds for Children in Need, but needs the support of the local community.

Kevin explained: "I'm raising money for the charity by getting people to sponsor a Pudsey spot on my car."

"On the spot someone can write a message or company logo and it will stay on my car until Christmas."

Kevin, a fully qualified driving instructor for nearly three years, wanted to



get involved with the cause because it is an event that brings driving instructors together from all over the UK to raise as much money as possible.

He added: "I've got six-year-old daughter and touch wood she is healthy but no one knows what is around

the corner. "Each year we buy the Pudsey t-shirt etc but I wanted to do a bit more and I'm honoured to be chosen as a lead car as well."

If people would like to 'buy a spot' they can contact Kevin on 07976 687 231.

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SCAMS! When your personal security hangs on an electronic knife-edge

IT has been a bad week.

I found £1,227 on my credit card for an item I did not remember. I put the address of the sales claim into my search engine and was directed to a lingerie sales outlet in Hong Kong.

Now let's be clear; I would remember spending £1,227 on lingerie. Telephone calls to my credit card company showed that this had been a very professional scam.

Telephone calls were made to the bank, claiming to be me, complaining that the card had since been blocked and asking for it to be unblocked.

I now have all new cards, bank access passwords and fraud watch on my account. I spend on the card then have a phone call to confirm it was my purchase.

It was such a shock. I am very careful with security on my cards because I deal with so many casework complaints of scamming. Financial fraud costs the UK economy £52 billion a year.

This was not the end of my travails however. I attended the French Defence University along with a Conservative MP on behalf of the Commons. We were at a military college outside Paris.

Security was high. The first speaker was Michael Fallon, the UK Secretary of State for Defence. Michael started to speak. "Brexit is Brexit," he said.

Then, "As Charles de Gaulle once said," at which point the hall was plunged into darkness as all the lights failed.

The room was full of military personnel, journalists, academics and politicians from across Europe and North Africa. I am sure I was not the only one who thought perhaps de Gaulle was expressing his unhappiness at being quoted, apparently in support of Brexit.

It wasn't a digger had gone through the main electrical cable to the site.

Michael completed the rest of his presentation by torch light while the rest of us sat in total darkness.

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON is writing an monthly report from Westminster for The GEM.



Except for me. An incoming call caused my phone to light up and to cut the noise I quickly turned the phone to silent and cut the call.

This was a great mistake. After Michael's speech we left the hall to enable the workforce to carry out repairs and for the Secretary of State to head back to the UK.

Some time within the next 10 minutes my phone was lost and not found, despite extensive searching of the conference hall. Because it was on silent it was impossible to find it by calling the number. Because we were in a secure building there was no wi fi and thus the 'Find My iPhone' app could not work.

I am now four days without a mobile phone and not happy. The phone is now dead. The secure server access to Westminster was cut and the phone and number blacklisted, so it cannot be used.

Despite this, the invasion into your private world leaves you feeling sick. The inability to multi-task is frustrating and emails of complaints as to why I am not answering my phone are growing.

So, two down and I am waiting for the third incident. Perhaps given this sword of Damocles hanging over my head, deciding to go to the Sudbrook pumping station which keeps the Severn Railway tunnel dry was not the best decision.

In fact it was amazing. You can see Sudbrook from the Severn Bridge, sitting on the peninsula of land below you. This amazing village was built complete with houses, school, chapel and store to house the workers and their families brought together to build the Severn Railway tunnel in March 1873.

The history of the tunnel is a wonderful example of Victorian engineering, creative problem solving and

the sheer guts of the ordinary workforce of 3,628 who laboured through terrible conditions and setbacks.

The first train passed through in December 1886. During the 13 years there were terrible setbacks. The 'Great Spring' which lies just below the tunnel broke through twice, a great snowstorm stopped work and a tidal wave flooded the tunnel.

Now, numerous pumps on the Welsh and English side of the Severn pump water from the great spring (and drained off from surrounding fields) from the tunnel. Each day between 14 and 30 gallons of water are pumped back into the River Severn. At one time 3,000 people were employed at the pumping station.

Today, thanks to technology, it is just 21. Two hundred and thirty years later the tunnel is being closed for six weeks to lower the tracks so that there is room for the electric conductor beam needed for electrification of the line between London and Swansea.

I just wonder which generation had it right. The one where technology means your money can be stolen without you knowing it. Access to your personal life, your friends, photographs, emails and texts can be stolen by removing one slim lightweight object from your handbag.

Or the one which laboured to create the longest underwater rail tunnel in the world while keeping it dry and full of clean air? All I will say is you won't find me complaining about the extra time on the journey to London.

I will be too busy thinking of those miners digging out the tunnel and lining it with 756,400,000 bricks for generations to come to travel in ease below the River Severn.

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS FROM YOUR AREA

LALESTON WI

THE September meeting of Laleston WI was taken by vice president Barbara Rees, who welcomed everyone back after the summer break. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and agreed.

All members remembered dear friend Joan Rule, with Maureen Morgan reading a poem, written by Joan, for Laleston WI's 20th anniversary. It is also intended to recite her poem on the occasion of our 50th anniversary, in 2018.

Everyone agreed they had had a busy and enjoyable summer, with a successful afternoon tea and trips to Tynesfield House and Picton Castle. Future events include the WI quiz, federation dinner at The Hi-Tide, Porthcawl and the Christmas lunch at the Atlantic Hotel, Porthcawl.

The evening's Harvest Auction was extremely successful. A huge 'thank you' goes to Maureen Morgan for all her hard work, with thanks to all the members for being so generous with their bids. Ann Rees won the raffle and Barbara Rees gave a vote of thanks to Maureen along with a lovely flower display.

The cinema club is up and running once again. The luncheon club will be on October 11 and the book club, at Bridgend library, will take place on October 18.

Our next meeting will be held on October 6 at 7.15pm in Blandy Hall (Laleston Gardening Club). The guest speaker, Alan Badmington, will be 'Lost for Words'. Our competition covers 'Autumnal Colours'. New members are always welcome, why not come and join us? For further information call Diane on 01656 656600.

Laleston Gardening Club

THIS club, which has approximately 150 members meets at Cliff Cottage, High Street, Laleston.

The club has a thriving ladies' section which meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. On Tuesday, September 20 there will be a demonstration by Maria Teague, making decorative logs and forms of paper craft.

Glamorgan Family History Society

THE Bridgend branch of the society is holding

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Macmillan Cancer Support

CEFN Cribwr village is again this year supporting the world's biggest coffee morning on Friday, September 23.

It is inviting members of the public to pop into the Green Hall (the Community Centre) from 9.30am to 1pm for a cuppa and a chat, plus there will be jewellery, gift, skincare, beauty products, therapies and craft stalls.

The world's biggest coffee morning is Macmillan's biggest fundraising event. For more information contact the organiser Mandy at email: lilacpage@sky.com or telephone 07917 097975.

Bridgend Male Choir

MY wife and I had the pleasure of attending the choir's annual concert at the Tabernacle Chapel on September 9, and the chapel was packed.

The singing by the choir and the variety of music was fantastic. The new musical director Ryan Wood, working with the choir showed up in its singing of 'Tell my Father', and accompanist Stephanie Bailey's playing of the piano and organist Scott Williams highlighted that all three made a good team.

Soloist Angharad Morgan's soprano voice and execution could not be bettered, with her

encouragement to the audience to join with her in singing the popular songs. All of it was put together by the MC in such a streamlined and professional way.

The choir's next concert in the Bridgend area is at the Tabernacle Chapel in Pontycymer for the Merlyn Maddock MBE Memorial Concert, supporting sufferers of Parkinson's Disease.

The concert is on Friday, September 23 at 7pm and the compere is Huw Edwards, who is making a welcome return to Pontycymer.

The musical entertainment will be provided by the choir, of which Huw Edwards is a patron; harp and vocal trio, Eos and the school choir of Ffaldau Primary. Ticket enquiries to Dave and Joan Davison on 01656 658273.

Tondu Methodist Church

THIS year, the church will again be participating in the Open Doors scheme run by CADW in Wales.

Each year, a theme is chosen that has some relevance to the local community and on September 23/24 from 10am to 3pm the church will host a celebration of local crafts.

There will be displays showcasing the variety of craft activity happening in the area. Crafts featured include weaving, spinning,

quilts, model boats, model railways, paper crafts, fabric crafts etc and there will also be a display of old photographs, so there will be something for everyone. Entrance is free to all. Refreshments will be available on both days including light lunches.

Also, during the weekend the church will be decorated with flowers, fruit and vegetables for the traditional Harvest Festival services. On Sunday, September 25 there is a parade and family service at 10.30am and a traditional Harvest Festival service at 2.30pm followed by a Harvest Tea with the presentation of an award by the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales.

Tondu Primary School

THE school is holding a 'walk to school' day next Thursday, September 22. During walk to school day all children will be able to support the school's ECO committee by walking, going by bus or riding their bike or scooter to come to school.

If you live too far away from school to walk the whole journey, why not join in by parking at Aberkenfig car park (Simla) and walking the last part of your journey with the walking bus to Meadow Street? Meet at 8am (for breakfast club) or 8.30am on Thursday, September 22.

The school is offering a homework club for children in reception to year-2 from 3.15pm to 3.45pm each Wednesday. There will be staff available to work with the child on their homework.

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FAMILIES AND FRIENDS ARE IN CARDIFF FOR THE KIDNEY WALES CHARITY RUN



Photos by MANDY THOMAS
(Available for purchase,
telephone 07541 982794)

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 8).

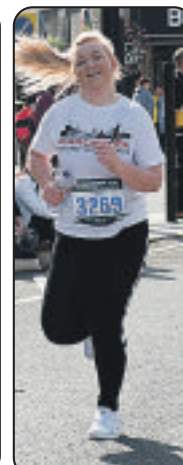
LAST year, friends, families and work colleagues joined Nicola on the Kidney Wales run in Cardiff

The name 'Misfits' was coined, and more than £1,000 was raised.

However, with a 50-strong team this year, Nicola was hoping to better that figure by a considerable margin.

Local photographer Mandy Thomas accompanied the

Misfits, and was able to capture the smiles – before and after the run!



No 'paws' in Dogs Trust three-hour Zumbathon



A 'ZUMBATHON' held in North Cornelly Community Centre on Saturday, September 10 raised money for the Dogs Trust charity, 'Make Every Move Count'.

It was organised and hosted by local Zumba instructor Andy Burnett.

Andy put together a Zumbathon in a three-hour event for the Dogs Trust.

A raffle was also drawn on the day with prizes kindly donated from local businesses from Bridgend and Pencoed, including



Andy Burnett. Andrew Davis Photography, Pencoed Village Florist and Paws At Pencoed.

Some participants gathered sponsorship for

the Zumbathon by their friends and family to take part, also donations were given by members of Andy's Zumba classes and spectators on the day.

Other local Zumba instructors joined Andy on the stage for the fundraiser.

The running total as it stands, of funds raised for the charity, is £948.

Andy said: "I would like to give a big thank you to all those who got involved on the day. Special thanks to the instructors who helped out: Michelle Alparslan, Tracey Raikes, Sarah Morgan and David Adnum."

HENRY VIII WILL VISIT BRIDGEND THIS SATURDAY!

THIS Saturday, September 17, will be a royal day for Bridgend, as it steps back 500 years to 1516, when King Henry VIII granted a Royal Market Charter to the town.

A variety of entertainment, fun and games from Tudor times awaits. Visit the town and learn how the Tudors cured ailments, watch a Tudor blacksmith at work and enjoy traditional Tudor musicians, dancing and storytelling throughout the day.

Free workshops will be available, including Tudor pottery, cooking, leather purse making and toy making; together with ink, quill and parchment making, Tudor soap and candle making, spinning, weaving, fletching and much, much more!

King Henry himself will make royal progress around the town, accompanied by one of his six wives and will offer an 'Audience with the King' to receive petitions from local folk on all manner of subjects.

At 12 noon, the Market Charter

ceremony will take place in Dunraven Place when King Henry will present the Charter to the Mayor of Bridgend Town.

There will also be an opportunity to take free guided tours of the historical landmarks of Bridgend which include the oldest dwelling house - St John's Hospice - and see the restoration work being carried out.

Bridgend town councillor David Unwin said: "This will be a pageant never seen before locally" and he paid tribute to John Dunkley-Williams of the Bridgend History Library in Sunnyside, who had unearthed valuable documents relating to market charters.

Bridgend Town Council is delighted to welcome the royal presence and is happy for all local residents and those from afar to partake in this unique experience. Nigel Kinsey, the town clerk, said: "The welcome to our town will be both warm and royal!"

NEWS IN BRIEF

Marie Curie fundraising BRIDGEND and Porthcawl Marie Curie fundraising group are presenting a fashion show in conjunction with Samantha B of Ewenny.

The event is on Wednesday, September 28 at the Heronston Hotel. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.45pm start. Tickets are £10, available from 01656 660391 or email bandmariecurie@gmail.com.

Cantorion Pontyclun AT 7.30pm on Friday, October 7 Cantorion Pontyclun will perform a concert at Pontyclun Athletic Club.

Other artists include Bois Goitre-Hen male voice choir. Tickets cost £5 and are available on the door or from Anne Williams, chemist in Pontyclun. They are also available from www.cantorionpontyclun.org.uk.

New business in Nantymoel

A NEW business opens in Nantymoel next week, as Julie Cavell will be holding a special open day at JC Dog Grooming and Kennel Services, on Vale View Terrace.

Julie took a break from painting the premises in her colours (yellow and gold) and said that everyone was invited to pop in on the opening day.

She said: "The Mayor of the County Borough will be performing the official opening."

"My existing customers - and new ones too - are all welcome."

Julie can be contacted on 07814 136565.

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Wanted for recycling: the 'unusual suspects'

THIS Recycle Week (September 12-18), Bridgend County Borough residents are being asked to hunt down the 'unusual suspects' - items that are often forgotten when recycling at home.

Many of the most overlooked items can be found in the bathroom, such as toilet roll tubes

and toothpaste boxes which can both be recycled with the rest of a household's cardboard, and the empty shampoo, bleach and shower gel bottles that can all go in the blue bag for plastics.

Coun Ceri Reeves, the council's cabinet member for communities, said: "Most of us are used to recycling the food waste, bottles, packaging and other

items that accumulate in the kitchen, but it can sometimes feel easier to throw bathroom items straight in the bin rather than putting them to one side for recycling.

"This Recycle Week, we'd like to ask residents to consider everything that they are throwing out at home and make sure that any 'unusual suspects' are recycled too."

Other recyclable 'unusual suspects' include hand soap dispensers, medicine bottles, and empty cardboard boxes from medication such as headache tablets.

Free energy saving advice in Maesteg

MAESTEG residents could be able to save money on their energy bills with help from the Welsh Government Warm Homes Nest scheme at a drop-in event in September.

The Nest team will be at the Health and Wellbeing Centre, Hartshorn House, in Maesteg on Tuesday, September 27 from 10am to 3pm to provide free energy saving advice.

For an appointment, please contact Rhian Liddiard on rhian.liddiard@est.org.uk or 07920 594 616.

In addition to advice, people who receive a means tested benefit and live in a home that is hard to heat may also be

eligible for free home improvements through the scheme.

These may include a replacement boiler, central heating system or insulation.

Lee Parry, head of Nest, said: "The Nest team will be offering a wide range of free energy saving advice and support to help those who struggle to heat their homes. Since the scheme started in 2011, Nest has provided free advice and support to over 85,000 households across Wales with over 23,700 householders benefiting from free home improvements."

Nest can be contacted on Freephone 0808 808 2244 or visit www.nestwales.org.uk.

Floral society returns

THE Porthcawl Floral Arrangement Society is back in business after its summer break.

The next meeting is at Awel-y-Mor on Wednesday, September 21, 7.30pm, and it will be an enrolment evening.

There will also be a flower demonstration by Marie Munday, entitled 'A Day Trip to London'. The doors open at 6.30pm, and there will be a warm welcome to everyone.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A COUNCILLOR?

COMMUNITY-SPIRITED members of the public are being invited to discover whether they could become a county borough councillor ahead of next year's local elections.

Bridgend County Borough Council is encouraging local or, email members residents to find out if they have got what it takes to represent their

local community at special 'Be a councillor' events, which are being held at the Civic Offices, Bridgend, from 6pm on October 11 and 12.

Spaces for the 'Be a councillor' events are limited and must be booked in advanced.

To find out more, or to register your interest, please visit www.bridgend.gov.uk/councillor or, email members@bridgend.gov.uk, or call 01656 643250 or 01656 643385.

Landlords must 'Rent Smart'

ANYONE who rents out property in Bridgend County Borough needs to comply with a new law that is coming into effect across Wales in November.

By November 23, all landlords must register themselves and their properties, while all agents and any landlords who also self-manage their properties will need to obtain a licence.

Applications can be made online at www.rentsmart.gov.wales or by calling the Rent Smart Wales helpline on 03000 133344.

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GVS SET TO HOLD AGM

GLAMORGAN Voluntary Services (GVS) annual general meeting will be held on Thursday, October 13 from 6pm to 8pm at the Memorial Hall, Barry.

Member groups are invited to learn about what work GVS has carried out for Vale communities.

Non-member community and voluntary groups are also welcome to attend to find out more about its services.

GVS membership is free for groups with an annual income under £15,000.

Light refreshments will be available at the beginning of the meeting from 6pm. Please could you confirm attendance to Ceri Venners at GVS by telephone 01446 741706, or by e-mail, enquiries@gvs.wales.



Young chefs Ela Preston and Mari Smith, from Ysgol y Gader, Dolgellau, joined Elwen Roberts at the HCC stand at this year's Royal Welsh Show.

New food qualification for GBBO generation

YOUNG fans of *The Great British Bake Off* and other popular shows such as *Great British Menu* will have a new qualification to aim for this year, with the introduction of the new GCSE in food and nutrition.

The new qualification, offered by the Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC) in consultation with a number of experts from specialist food organisations, is a new comprehensive qualification to replace the previous GCSEs in hospitality and catering and food technology. Its aim is to equip pupils with the knowledge,

understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

One of the organisations which supports the course and provides training and materials for teachers is Hybu Cig Cymru – Meat Promotion Wales (HCC). HCC is engaged in a number of initiatives to share the latest information about the role of red meat in a healthy, balanced diet, including supporting school events and hosting an education day at its stand in the Royal Welsh Show.

Elwen Roberts, a popular chef on S4C as well as HCC's consumer executive, said that this new qualification is very timely.

"Cooking is an increasingly popular pastime for young people, and can lead to a range of rewarding careers in hospitality and tourism," she said.

"Through this new course, pupils can learn how lean red meat is a good source of iron, protein, zinc and several vitamins, and is naturally low in sodium, but of course it's best consumed as part of a healthy balanced diet," added Elwen.

"Food provenance is a key part of the new specification. Pupils will learn, for instance, about schemes such as the flagship PGI (Protected Geographical Indication) status which Welsh lamb and Welsh beef enjoy."

Crumbs! A landmark made up of biscuits



Millennium Centre – made from biscuits!

IN celebration of the Welsh capital holding the most coffee mornings in Wales, Macmillan Cancer Support has built the local landmark, the Millennium Centre, out of biscuits.

The huge biscuit sculpture is accompanied by other iconic UK landmarks and will be displayed in the window of the Koppel Project, at, appropriately enough, 93 Baker Street, London, on September 30.

The landmarks have all been chosen to give thanks to the millions of people that helped raise £27.6 million during last year's event alone. Macmillan is encouraging people to sign up to host a World's Biggest Coffee Morning this year by visiting www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee. Whether big or small, baked or faked, each and every coffee morning helps change the lives of people affected by cancer.

Macmillan has used its 26 years of experience to identify coffee morning hosts from across the country and immortalised their local landmarks in biscuit, including:

Millennium Centre – The Welsh capital Cardiff stole the show in Wales with the most coffee morning

registrations in a single postcode coming from the centre of the city;

The Shard – The nation's capital boasted 7,500 coffee mornings last year with the most taking place in SE1;

Whitby Abbey – Traditionally known for its tea, Yorkshire boasted the most coffee mornings in England with 8,392 taking place across the county and;

New Macmillan Support Centre on the health and wellbeing campus at Altnagelvin Hospital (currently under construction), Londonderry – In Londonderry, Macmillan is investing £1.5 million in a new Macmillan Support Centre on the health and wellbeing campus at Altnagelvin Hospital. Local people have thrown their support behind fundraising for the project with the most coffee morning signs up in Northern Ireland coming from this area last year.

Katherine Stevens, a Macmillan lung clinical nurse specialist, was on hand to unveil the huge biscuit sculpture.

The mammoth structure, spanning more than 80 square feet, is made up of 25,000 biscuits! Macmillan has also created cutting guides that enable budding bakers and coffee morning hosts to bake their own landmarks, available to download from www.macmillan.org.uk/biscuits.

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Former Vale College student Kimberley wins art prize



Kimberley Barker with her Cowbridge Art Group prize.

FORMER Cardiff and Vale College student Kimberley Barker has won the annual Cowbridge Art Group prize.

Kimberley, aged 20 from Cardiff, was chosen by panel of judges to receive the £100 prize and certificate for her mixed media paintings exploring the concept of beauty in decay.

Working directly with organic materials, she produced a series of experimental collages and paintings that lead to the final exhibited works.

Her work featured in 'It's All About...' this year's annual Cardiff and Vale College exhibition

for art and design students based at its Colcot Road campus in Barry. The exhibition appeared at the Old Hall Gallery on Cowbridge High Street in the summer.

CAVC art and design tutor, Adrian Metcalfe, said: "The judging panel stressed the difficulty in make the final decision due to the high quality of all the work on display. They felt all the students were worthy of commendation and that the show demonstrated the high level of ability across Cardiff and Vale College's art and design courses."

ACCLAIMED SINGER GIVES CONCERT FOR HOLY TRINITY CHURCH



Bass-baritone Matthew Brook. Photo by Richard Shymansky.

by Andy Johnstone

THE Church of the Holy Trinity, Marcross, will be the beneficiary of a concert to be given in November by acclaimed bass-baritone Matthew Brook.

Matthew, described by The Observer as "turning everything he sings to gold" will be joined by Anna Markland, former BBC Young Musician of the Year, at the concert on November 4 at the Glass Hall in St Donats Arts Centre.

Matthew said: "The programme for the concert in aid of Marcross Church will be full of fun and vocal fireworks – perhaps competing with bonfire nights in the area – and we hope to entice an audience with flashes of vocal light and fizz!"

Matthew, who describes himself as a "relative newcomer" to the area, has performed around the globe, working with, amongst others, Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Sir Mark Elder and Richard Hickox.

His operatic roles include Calkas in Walton's *Troilus and Cressida*, Lord Hategood in Vaughan Williams' *The Pilgrim's Progress* and the titular role in *The Marriage of Figaro*.

The evening will also feature an auction of promises by locals who have, according to Matthew, "wide and interesting skills to offer".

"We need the venue full to overflowing to keep our wonderful old Marcross Church from falling down," said Matthew.

Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for children, and are available from Sharon Evans, Marcross Farm, on 01446 792462.

Ward councillors' surgery

THE Labour Vale and Town Councillors for Buttrills, Castleland and Court Wards – Bronwen Brooks, Pamela Drake, Jeff Evans, Chris Elmore, Les Sword, Karl Kuhnell and Stuart Egan – will hold their regular advice surgery on Saturday, September 17 from 10am until 11am in the small community room, Barry library, King Square.

No appointment necessary.

Scout jumble

THE Cowbridge Scout group annual jumble sale is this Saturday, September 17 at the Scout hall.

Doors open at 10.30am to 12.30pm. A great mix of clothes, books, games and bric-a-brac makes this a bargain hunter's dream!

PACT meetings

GIBBONSDOWN PACT will be held at the Residents' Board Office, Coychurch Rise, Barry on Tuesday, September 20, at 10.30am.

Meet your local officers at Waitrose, Palmerston Road, Barry, on Thursday, September 29 between 11am and 1.30pm.

In Rhooose, a coffee and chat meeting will take place at the Highwayman, Rhooose, on Monday, September 29 at 11am.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting please contact 101 for non emergencies or log onto:

www.south-wales.police.uk where you will find contact details for your local PCSO and you can contact them directly for non emergency matters.

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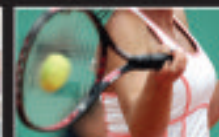
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New training centre for public sector

A NEW training centre supporting staff that manage tax payers' money in Wales was opened by the Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

The centre, based in Cardiff and Vale College, will, according to a CIPFA spokesperson, "offer the full chartered public finance accountant (CPFA) professional qualification to the country's future public service leaders, with specific focus on Welsh issues."

Chris Tidwell, head of CIPFA Wales, said: "With £38bn annual public spending and the power to shape its own

services, Wales needs a new generation of public finance professionals with bespoke training and support.

"The public sector in Wales is a hotbed of innovation with particular strengths in providing services to diverse communities."

"The CIPFA Cardiff training centre will help strengthen public financial management in Wales and spread Welsh innovation across the UK."

Students from NHS Wales, Welsh Government and local authorities were among the first to begin the three-year course taught at the new centre.

First Welsh tax in almost 800 years to be introduced

A NEW Bill, expected to be introduced on September 12, will introduce the first Welsh tax in almost 800 years.

The Land Transaction Tax and Anti-avoidance of Devolved Taxes (Wales) Bill is the first Bill to be introduced as part of the Welsh Government's new legislative programme. The tax will be a replacement for stamp duty land tax.

Like stamp duty land tax, land transaction tax will be payable on the purchase or lease of a building or land in Wales above a certain price. It will affect house buyers and businesses, including builders, property developers and agents involved in the transaction process, such as solicitors and conveyancers.

In 2014-15, £170m was raised from stamp duty land tax in Wales, with 55,000 transactions taking place. This is expected to rise to £244m by 2018-19. If the Bill is passed, land transaction tax will replace stamp duty land tax in Wales in April 2018.

Rates have yet to be announced. The Bill sets out the key principles of the new tax, including the types of transactions, the procedure for setting rates and bands, how the tax will be

calculated, and what reliefs will apply. It also introduces measures to tackle tax avoidance.

Land transaction tax broadly mirrors stamp duty land tax, providing consistency and stability for businesses and home buyers in Wales but it introduces some changes, which are designed to improve efficiency and to reflect what are referred to as 'unique Welsh circumstances and priorities.'

Key changes include:

A new overarching general anti-avoidance rule (GAAR) to help prevent and robustly tackle tax avoidance;

A broad targeted anti-avoidance rule (TAAR) which applies to all reliefs;

The exclusion of two reliefs in relation to the demutualisation of insurance companies and building societies;

Amendments to some other reliefs so they operate better or in a more relevant way to Wales;

The rent element of new residential leases will be exempt from tax under LTT;

The simplification of rules in relation to leases.

Finance Secretary Mark Drakeford said: "This is an historic milestone in the devolution of tax powers

to Wales. This Bill marks another step towards the creation of taxes which are more suited to the needs of Wales and support Welsh public services.

"This is a tax which affects so many of us. By replacing stamp duty land tax with a new made-in-Wales land transaction tax, public services in Wales will continue to benefit from the revenues raised by this important tax."

The GEM is interested in readers' views on tax-raising powers. Please email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk.

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MEL is a beautiful border collie, approximately five years old.

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Mel will need to live with another well-adjusted dog; she can also live with children over 14 years.

If you can offer Mel, or any of our other dogs, a loving home, please contact us on 01656 725219 or visit our website.

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THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D948.

● £2,000: 836159.

● The rollover, which now stands at £3,000, was not won this week.

● £10: 594619, 795734, 863499, 804615, 777591, 185434, 507853, 390056, 435201, 602105, 412065, 976088, 681426, 383396, 728901, 194840, 434331, 602327, 815064, 005264.

● £5: 596699, 705113, 782587, 453359, 260359, 948424, 468178, 209945, 722091, 752632, 556691, 243251, 919557, 617896, 500719,

454373, 504478, 882264, 719788, 527104, 861897, 631608, 692640, 794314, 979432, 263340, 532324, 892425, 366922, 661496, 872801, 575895, 473867, 573831, 284434, 282344, 119946, 964121, 835792, 113370, 444803, 546981, 626008, 844882, 880946, 831525, 511974, 381342, 325521, 542145, 383088, 654027, 723430, 510705, 411537, 001284, 001040, 000317, 1984515, 1979037.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

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Bridgend and Porthcawl to join up with the Vale for new MP constituency

A NEW plan to cut the number of Welsh parliamentary constituencies from 40 to 29, will see Porthcawl and Bridgend joining up with the western Vale, while the Vale constituency will replace those lost voters by swallowing up the existing Penarth and South Cardiff constituency.

The Omore constituency will be combined with Port Talbot to form a new, larger constituency.

At first glance, the changes appear fairly neutral under the traditional Labour - Conservative analysis. The new constituency of Bridgend and the western Vale ought to be a more marginal seat, as the western Vale is thought to be more Conservative in outlook.

However, the Eastern Vale constituency, where Alun Cairns is the sitting Conservative MP, looks more Labour now, having lost the western

Vale and taking on board parts of Penarth and South Cardiff - currently held by Labour's Stephen Doughty.

Bringing Omore and Port Talbot together looks as if it will be a traditional Labour banker - unless there are seismic political changes in the future.

The Boundary Commission for Wales on September 13 published comprehensive details of its initial proposals for a revised parliamentary constituency map.

The launch marks the start of a 12-week public consultation period during which the Commission is asking people to 'have their say' on the proposals; either by submitting written representations by post or online or by making oral submissions at one of five hearings that will take place across Wales.

The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 requires a reduction in the number of UK constituencies from 650 to 600 and for every UK constituency to have an

**by PHILIP
IRWIN**

electorate within the range of 71,031 to 78,507.

In all but one case, the number of eligible voters in each proposed new constituency is much larger than in the current Welsh constituencies.

There are changes to every constituency contained in the Commission's Initial Proposals, and some of the proposed alterations are considerable.

The Commission points out that, while its proposals meet the statutory criteria, it has also taken into account other relevant factors important to Wales, such as: geographical considerations, including the size, shape and accessibility of constituencies, local government boundaries; boundaries of existing constituencies and any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies.

Steve Halsall, Secretary to the Commission, said: "The Commission has

produced a set of initial proposals which meet the requirements of the 2011 Act. It has also taken into account other relevant factors and has sought to identify the solutions most suitable to local needs within Wales.

"I would emphasise that these are initial proposals and I very much hope that members of the public will participate in the process of consultation which now begins."

Mr Halsall added: "Over the next 12 weeks people may visit our consultation portal, write in or email us to let us know what they think of the Commission's proposals. Whether they accept or object, we are keen to hear people's views. Where they object - particularly where they can supply counter-proposals - the Commission will give full consideration and may amend its proposals accordingly."

The proposed new parliamentary constituencies are: Alyn and Deeside; Blaenau Gwent; Brecon and Radnorshire; Bridgend, Cardiff West, Ceredigion, Cynon Valley, Llanelli, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney, Neath, Omore, Rhondda, Swansea East, Torfaen, Wrexham and Ynys Môn.

Glamorgan West; Caerfyrddin; Caerphilly; Cardiff North; Cardiff South and East; Cardiff West; Ceredigion a Gogledd Sir Benfro; Colwyn and Conwy; Cynon Valley and Pontypridd; De Clwyd a Gogledd Sir Faldwyn; Flint and Rhuddlan; Gogledd Clwyd a Gwynedd; Gower and Swansea West; Llanelli and Lliw; Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney; Monmouthshire; Neath and Aberavon; Newport; Omore and Port Talbot; Rhondda and Llantrisant; South Pembrokeshire; Swansea East; Torfaen; Vale of Glamorgan East; Wrexham Maelor; and, Ynys Môn ac Arfon.

A total of 16 existing constituencies would be wholly contained within a new constituency (Alyn and Deeside, Blaenau Gwent, Brecon and Radnorshire, Bridgend, Cardiff West, Ceredigion, Cynon Valley, Llanelli, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney, Neath, Omore, Rhondda, Swansea East, Torfaen, Wrexham and Ynys Môn).



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All things considered, once you've made the decision to go ahead, it could take three or four months before you can put your feet up and enjoy your new room. However, having invested the time to design, plan and build it properly we think you'll agree that your new conservatory or orangery will be more than worth the wait!

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Varroa mite is an 'alien species' to bee colonies

AUTUMN is definitely setting in.

My inspection of the hives is revealing a reduced pattern of egg laying by the queens; this is prompting me to check on the amount of food stores in each colony and to evaluate the varroa mite numbers, so that I can assist the bees to prepare for the coming winter.

Two of the colonies are certainly in need of a little help, and I can aid them by feeding them with liquid sugar made by myself, or I can purchase a product that is manufactured specifically for honeybees.

Without a doubt, nectar collected by the bees and converted into honey by them is a far better way for things to proceed.

However for this to occur there has to be a source that the bees can access, and I am only too well aware that the forage in the countryside is just not there anymore.

Some summer weather has certainly aided many pollinating insects to get out and about in their search for the means to survive, but is no easy task.

Any beekeeper who decides to feed the colonies must do so while temperatures are such that the bees can manoeuvre and correctly store any offerings, ready for winter.

Should a cold snap occur – ie below 10° Celsius (50° Fahrenheit) – the bees will be very likely comatose and in this state they cannot utilise your proffered assistance.

Despite the fact that I am involved with three apiaries, the honey crop has not been satisfactory; a little honey has been taken and extracted, but always it is the welfare of the bees that is paramount and it would be a gross error to put my needs before those of the bees.

As always the varroa mite is ever present and combined with the changed bio-diversity prevailing, just now we could do without it.

There are still beekeepers who are convinced that the varroa is non-existent in their colonies, or that there are so few of them that they are of no concern.

The mite is an alien species and its introduction has been brought about by the transport of goods around the world by us; we have assisted species to cross natural barriers that they would not normally be able to cross.

Remember, we are a species with the ability to change the planet and we are certainly doing that.

HAROLD WILLIAMS
Fonmon Apiary

FLATHOLM SOCIETY TALK

THE Flatholm Society is hosting a talk by Helen Forder, a local author on 'The Life and Times of Lord and Lady Llanover'.

This will be held at The Kymin, Beach Road, Penarth, today Thursday, September 15 at 7pm. Refreshments and raffle; we request a donation of £2/£3 to cover costs. For information email pb.sampson@ntlworld.com or call 01446 404842.




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Learners come together!



WELSH learners from across the Vale came together recently for free revision lessons at Palmerston Centre, Barry.

Dusting off their words and phrases to chat to friends and tutors during the summer break, they are looking forward to returning to class late in September.

Come and join them! Improve your Welsh or start from the beginning this year.

Daeth dysgwyr Cymraeg o bob cwr o'r Fro i ddosbarthiadau adolygu am ddim yng Nghanolffan Palmerston yn y Barri yn ddiweddar.

Wedi ailgydio mewn geiriau a chymalau i sgwrsio â ffrindiau a thiwtoriadau, maen nhw'n edrych ymlaen yn eiddgar at aildddechrau gwersi ym mis Medi.

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The Vale's welcome for canine tourists

DOG owners and their dogs from across the UK can now enjoy more than 70 attractions, eateries, accommodation providers and shops in the rural Vale, safe in the knowledge that they are welcome thanks to the new 'Paws In The Vale' pilot project.

Commissioned by Creative Rural Communities, part of the Vale Council, the six-month pilot project aims to bring together all that is good and dog-friendly in the rural Vale, and promote it to dog owners throughout the UK with the aim of boosting leisure visits to the area during the traditionally



Nutmeg runs across the stepping stones.

quieter autumn months.

Coun Lis Burnett, deputy leader and the cabinet member for regeneration and education, said: "This area has so very much to offer to dog owners and their dogs and our new Paws In The Vale brand is a way of bringing this

all together, recognising excellence, and, promoting our collective offer as widely as possible.

"From October 1, if you visit the rural Vale with your dog you will be able to easily see which attractions, eateries, accommodation providers and shops are dog-friendly thanks to our Paws in The Vale stickers, and online badges.

"You can explore your options at any time and from anywhere thanks to our a dedicated Facebook page www.facebook.com/PawsInTheVale plus bilingual Twitter feeds @PawsInTheVale and @PawennaurFro which are all updated on a daily basis.

"Paws in the Vale has a dedicated page on our 'Visit the Vale' webpage too at www.visitthevale.com/pawsinthevale."

Preparation for the pilot project has been extensive and has included training sessions for participating businesses and organisations by Stephen Jenkinson, of Access and Countryside Management Ltd, specialist advisor on influencing dog owner behaviour in the countryside and urban greenspace.

Paws in the Vale has received funding from the Vale Council and the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2014 - 2020, which is funded by the Welsh Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, and administered by the Vale's Creative Rural Communities.

Coun Burnett added: "After seeing the benefits that dog-friendly tourism has brought to other areas of the UK, we are keen to explore this option for the rural Vale. Responsible dog ownership is at the heart of this initiative and feedback to date has been excellent."

Sailing around Welsh coast

THE Vale of Glamorgan Association of National Trust members and volunteers is holding the first of a series of talks on Wednesday, September 21 at The Duke of Wellington, Cowbridge at 7.30pm.

Richard Neale, National Trust Welsh coast project manager, will talk about his sailing journey around the coast to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Neptune coastline campaign. New members are welcome.

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NATIONAL EYE HEALTH WEEK

MONDAY 19th - SUNDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2016

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'PREVENT SIGHT LOSS WITH REGULAR EYE CHECKS' Inspiring people to look after their eyes

NATIONAL Eye Health Week (September 19-25) aims to raise awareness of the importance of eye health and the need for everyone to have sight checks every two years, to look after their eyes.

Dr Adrian Jones, from Jones & Jones Optometrists, High Street, Barry, said: "Almost two million people in the UK are living with sight loss yet over half of sight loss can be avoided, so it is vital everyone takes care of their eyes. "Sight is the sense people fear losing the most, yet many of us don't know the best way to look

after our eyes.

"This is why it is so important you get your eye health tested every two years, even if you think your vision is fine, as some eye conditions may not show symptoms. Visit visionmatters.org.uk".

Facts about vision loss:

Twenty million people in the UK could be at risk of avoidable sight loss because they fail to have regular sight tests.

Almost two million people in the UK are living with sight loss, yet over half of sight loss can be avoided. This means that almost two million people have a sight problem which has a serious impact on their daily lives.

The figure is made up of

people who are registered blind and partially sighted, and all the other people whose sight problems have a significant impact on daily activities.

Not all of these people can be registered as blind or partially-sighted.

Sight loss affects people of all ages.

The number of people in the UK with sight loss is set to increase dramatically. It is predicted that by 2050, the number of people with sight loss in the UK will double to nearly four million.

Make an appointment today – call 01446 400015 or visit www.jonesandjones.org.uk.

LOCAL optometrist Annette Dobbs of Annette Dobbs Eyecare in Barry hopes to encourage people to take better care of their sight during National Eye Health Week.

Annette explained: "Research shows that half of all sight loss is avoidable, so we want to inspire the residents of Barry to look after their eyes.

"Sight is the sense that people fear losing the most, that's why it's so important to get your eyes checked regularly by a qualified optometrist."

In Wales, we are particularly lucky that the NHS covers many people's eye tests.

Annette's practice at 40 Tynnewydd Road, Barry, carries out the full range of ophthalmic

services for all age groups, including emergency care.

They've recently invested in a new, easily accessible ground floor consulting room that is fully fitted with the latest equipment including a state-of-the-art Optical Coherence Tomography machine (OCT).

The OCT not only takes a digital photograph of the back of the eye but also captures a cross-sectional scan which enables earlier detection of sight-threatening eye diseases such as age-related macular degeneration and glaucoma.

Early detection is vital to prevent avoidable sight loss so don't forget to book an eye test during National Eye Health Week. For more information, contact Annette Dobbs Eyecare on 01446 735130.



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Advice on health care for eyes

NATIONAL Eye Week is from

September 19 to September 25, and to mark it, Age Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding a health information session at The Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, September 20.

It will be held at 10am to 12 midday and no appointment is needed – just come along and have a chat to a health care professional from Royal

National Institute for the Blind, Cardiff.

You may be registered blind or partially sighted, or a carer looking after a loved one.

Royal National Institute for the Blind helps blind and partially sighted people across south Wales to enjoy independent and fulfilling lives.

You will be able to chat about the different aids and devices available, support groups, computer training and general advice.

Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

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'Scams' advice
HAVE you been the victim of a scam, and want help reporting it?

Come along to Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop on Tuesday, September 20 from 10am – 12pm.

You will be able to chat to an adviser and get information and leaflets telling you all about the latest scams around and how to deal with them.

No appointment is needed; for further

information call 01446 732385.

Health advice
SHOUT Bridgend meet on the third Wednesday of every month.

In their meeting on September 21, Jude Kay from NHS Wales will talk about the 111 telephone number for non-emergency health calls and how it works.

Why not come along and join them for tea and a chat at the Evergreen Hall, Angel Street, Bridgend at 10am. For

more information see www.shoutbridgend.org.

Vale ways walks
ON Wednesday, September 21 at 10.30am, the Barry coffee shop strollers meet at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap, Barry.

Also on Wednesday, September 21 at 2.30pm, the Cowbridge coffee shop strollers meet at the Physic Garden fountain, Cowbridge.

On Tuesday, September 27 at 10am, Trem

WHAT'S ON, AND WHERE?

y Môr (Along the Lanes), starting at Maes Parcio, Neuadd y Dref, Llanilltud Fawr.

On Wednesday, September 28 at 10.30am, the Cosmeston coffee shop strollers meet at the visitor centre, Cosmeston Country Park.

Also on September 28 at 2.30pm, the Llantwit Major coffee shop

strollers meet at the town hall car park, Llantwit Major.

Memorial concert
TABERNACLE Chapel at Pontycymer is the venue for the Merlyn Maddock MBE Memorial Concert, supporting the Parkinson's charity.

The concert is at 7pm on Friday, September 23.

The compere is Bridgend born, BBC presenter and journalist Huw Edwards.

The music will be provided by Bridgend Male Choir, of which Huw Edwards is a patron; harp and vocal trio Eos, and the school choir of Ffaldau Primary. Ticket sales have been brisk, enquiries to Dave and Joan Davison on 01656 658273.

Castle Players
BRIDGEND Castle Players will be holding its 70th anniversary

celebration on

Saturday, September 24, at Bridgend Tennis Club. Doors will open at 7.30pm, and the evening will include a one-act play, disco, buffet, and memorabilia display.

The event is open to past and present members and patrons of Bridgend Castle Players and invited guests. Tickets (£10) are available from treasurer, Rhian Dowling, at

treasurer@bridgendcastleplayers.org or call 07814 881445. Advance booking is essential.

Bridgend Castle Players would be grateful if anyone has any photographs, programmes, posters, videos or memorabilia relating to them that could be copied or borrowed. Please contact secretary, Siân Islip, at secretary@bridgendcastleplayers.org, or Carl Cowling, technical@bridgendcastleplayers.org

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Christmas Party Guide



BALLS, BAUBLES AND BRUSSELS SPROUTS:

A guide to pulling a Christmas cracker – avoid the kitsch and think!

by **ANDY JOHNSTONE**

DESPITE writing this in the last gasp of an Indian summer, there is no escaping the fact that the autumn leaves have begun falling and that there is the faintest nip in the night air.

The harvest is in, children are – finally – back at school, the fortnight in Ibiza is but a dim memory and the swallows, swifts and housemartins are returning to Africa.

Yes, it is a change in the season, and for a newspaper, that change heralds the first festive feature of the year.

Staff sweltering in the tropic GEM Towers may be decked out in shorts, sarongs and flip-flops, but minds are firmly focused on the best recipe for glühwein, and getting *Stille Nacht* and *O Tannenbaum* pitch-perfect for the traditional office carol service.

Christmas, dear reader, is coming and as well as being the season of giving, it's also the time of year to let your hair down and relax.

After a busy 12 months with work, family or both, the prospect of stuffing a large turkey, only to find you forgot to buy a roasting tray large enough to take it, can be a little... disappointing.

It's a time to remember for all the right reasons, such as seeing Mummy kissing Santa Claus – not because tempers frayed when the turkey and trimmings turned to toast, along with the prospect of peace and goodwill to all.

The Vale and surrounding areas are blessed with an eclectic abundance of restaurants and hotels, and whether it is a sit-down meal with one's kith and kin, or a bit of a knees up with work colleagues, all tastes are well served.

But it's that very embarrassment of riches that can make finding the right place so hard.

And so, what do YOU like?

Christmas cool and fine dining at an upmarket hotel or snazzy bistro?

Something a little more traditional with a roaring open fire, carolling and pigs in blankets?

Or perhaps for the adventurous, eschewing the traditional tinsel and kitsch and going for something laden a little with Eastern promise? No, not Essex, but cuisine from the Mediterranean or even further towards the sunrise.

First of all, there is no pressure on you – none whatsoever – to get the Christmas booking spot-on and A1 perfect.

Ah, no, wait. Yes there is. Unless one visits and Orthodox Christian country 12 days later, Christmas is a once-a-year event and frankly, the pressure is on to get it right first time.

So, how does one avoid the embarrassment and social shame of messing up the works or family Christmas beano?

Reading and inwardly digesting – which I'm sure you are – this handy guide courtesy of The

GEM is the obvious answer!

Do your research now and, as they say, book early to avoid disappointment...

Venues in the Vale and environs tend to fill fast, and trying to find a venue on December 23 is likely to cause an unpleasant home or work atmosphere that lasts beyond Christmas, and beyond that.

For the sake of your family, your friendships and possibly your career, you do not want to be The Man (or Woman; this is the 21st Century, after all) Who Ruined Christmas For Everyone, or Clark Griswold.

Next, scan through the advertisements on these pages. Whilst not a comprehensive list of the

area's many excellent eating places and watering holes, it's a good place to start.

Then consider who your fellow diners will be. As a rule – to which we all know an exception – what suits a group of raucous young farmers or urban professionals might not suit one's dowager aunt, and vice versa.

Is it just a meal, or is additional entertainment on the cards? Perhaps a Bond-style casino or masquerade ball is more your bag, or a 1970s' disco?

Christmas, sadly, is not just the season of peace, goodwill & c. It is also the season when generally sane and staid men and women commit that greatest of social sins.

No, not the not the broom-closet clinch with Doreen from Accounts, but dancing!
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 23)



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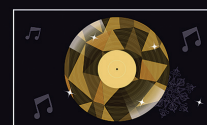
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Christmas Party Guide

GEM guide to pulling a Christmas cracker!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21)

It takes just one Jägerbomb too many to convince most of us that we are not the embodiment of that discombobulated discotheque oaf David Brent on the dance floor, but are, in fact, channelling a mix of Joaquin Cortes and John Barrowman with a soupçon of Billy Elliot thrown in.

Plenty of venues have space for those that like to trip the light fantastic, so do check, although one's respect for the MD might be slightly diminished come the cold, harsh light of the next day in the office. But then, that is the brutal beauty of a works' bash.

Keep your phone handy for quick pictures. The good ones can go straight to Facebook or Twitter; the best ones are held in reserve to negotiate a pay rise or promotion.

And whilst you might be a friend of Dorothy in your ruby slippers as you sashay to the latest grooves, said pumps will be good for walking home, so don't forget transport.

Without sermonising, it's never a good idea to drink and drive. The days of "knowing your limits" are long gone and no-one wants to round off their year with a conviction, or worse, a casualty on their conscience.

So, will there be a designated driver or will your group of revellers take carriages (okay, taxis) or the now *de rigueur* stretch limo?

Alternatively, find somewhere that also offers accommodation and make a real night of it. You might find that room rates are better booked in advance.

Do a recce, and take someone else with you. Two opinions are better than one and anyway, why not treat yourself and said friend before Christmas? You're clearly putting in the effort on behalf of your nearest and dearest, or work colleagues, and deserve a treat.

Whatever your lifestyle and whatever suits you, may The GEM be the first to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.



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LATEST NEWSPAPER SALES FIGURES!

| The GEM | 45,489 | Priceless |
|-----------------------|--------|------------|
| Barry & District News | 3,929 | Paid 50p |
| Penarth Times | 4,132 | Paid 50p |
| South Wales Echo | 19,158 | Paid 65p |
| Western Mail | 18,641 | Paid 80p |
| Glamorgan Gazette | 9,094 | Paid 90p |
| Wales on Sunday | 14,789 | Paid £1.50 |

The GEM's weekly figure includes door to door delivery and numerous popular outlets from Penarth to Porthcawl

Latest Data available

That's why advertisers continue to enjoy a positive response from us - The GEM is 'Priceless'!

Remember - we distribute over 45,000 complimentary copies of The GEM throughout the Vale, Bridgend & Porthcawl every week - packed with all the content that makes a community newspaper really worth reading!

(Figures correct as of April 2016)

MAIDEN FLIGHT FOR FLYBE CARDIFF -LONDON ROUTE



Alun Cairns MP joins other passengers on the Bombardier Dash 8 Q400 turboprop operated by Flybe.

A NEW flight service between Cardiff and London has started and has been timed to coincide with major rail engineering works taking place between the two capitals.

The three-times-a-day Flybe flights to London City airport operate until October 21 and are scheduled to take one hour and 15 minutes. During the same period, the Severn Tunnel is closed as part of the rail electrification programme.

Passengers have been warned of up to 45 minutes extra on rail journey times. The 130-year-old Severn tunnel has closed to trains for six weeks so rail engineers can install more than eight miles of electrical equipment. The work is to allow the faster, electric trains to run.

Great Western Railway (GWR) mainline services will be diverted via Gloucester between Newport and Swindon, adding about 30 minutes to journey times.

Vale MP Alun Cairns, who flew on the maiden flight, said: "The

flights being offered by Flybe from Rhosneigr to London City Airport are a helpful way of ensuring that the Welsh capital, Canary Wharf and central London stay connected during the temporary closure of the Severn Tunnel.

"I hope we will see an expanding range of regional air services from London to Cardiff in the longer term. We need to make it as easy as possible for commuters to get here - whether by plane, or the faster travel times promised by the Crossrail upgrade."

Mess dress and RAF traditions on a special Dining-In Night



RECENTLY, 372 (Barry) Squadron, Air Training Corps held its 'Dining-In Night', an opportunity to formally entertain guests of the squadron, with nearly 100 officers, instructors, cadets and ex-cadets attending.

The cadets and squadron staff were joined by several guests, including Flight Lieutenant Andy Cole (MoD St Athan), Squadron Leader Rob Jones (No.1 Welsh Wing Training Officer), Squadron Leader Dave Crandon (former Commanding Officer 372 Squadron) and Flight Lieutenant John Greenow (former Squadron Commander and Chairman).

The 'Mr Vice' on the night was Cadet Harrison Gould, the newest cadet in the squadron. Cdt Harrison's responsibility on the night was to assist the Commanding Officer with the smooth running of the evening and to entertain the guests after dinner.

After dinner, Flt Lt John Greenow gave an entertaining speech to the cadets and guests. Flt Lt Cole presented the annual NCO of the Year trophy to Corporal Natasja Gill for her hard work and dedication during the past year. Sqn Ldr Dave Crandon promoted Natasja Gill and Zena Poulakis to Sergeant and James Jelinski to Corporal.

The cadets thoroughly enjoyed the annual dining in night, learning about the traditions upheld within the Royal Air Force.

Cadet Sophie Thomas said: "At first I really nervous about the evening and all the traditions we had to remember. It was great fun and I can't wait until next year's dining-in night."

Ogmore Castle stages Vintage Tractor Run...

THE Ogmore Castle Vintage Tractor Run will be held on October 2 in the Ogmore Castle field, by permission of Mr Robert Williams.

Registration of tractors will take place from 9am and the run will start at 10.30am. All money raised will go to Macmillan Cancer Support (total raised to date £3,317).

For the benefit of residents who wish to watch the procession, the planned route of the run, and approximate timing, will be: Leave Ogmore Castle, 10.30am; Ogmore-by-Sea, 10.45; Southerndown, 10.50; St Bride's Major (Bull Hill),

11.00: Black Hall Farm, 11.15; Wick, 11.30; Colwinston, 11.50; Llyswoyney, 12.10; Pentre Meyrick, 12.25; Cornstown, 1.00; Ewenny, 1.15; and finish at Ogmore Castle at 1.30pm.

The route will be posted in all villages to notify the general public. The police have been notified of the event.

Entries are £10 per tractor and all participants are encouraged to raise sponsorship, as all money collected will go to Macmillan Cancer Support. Entry forms can be obtained from me Castle, 01656 654440 or at basil@basilgeorge.com. BASIL GEORGE

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www.cowbridge-today.co.uk
www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk
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African trip for Vale volunteers



Barry optician Ted Arbuthnot training village health volunteers in Tororo, Uganda

LAST week, eight volunteers from local charity Vale for Africa, have been actively working in the Tororo district of Uganda on their fourth visit to the region.

Led by Barry-based optician Ted Arbuthnot, the team of medical professionals included six optometrists and two GP doctors.

Gareth Kiddie, Chair of Vale for Africa said: "At this point we are awaiting a final report on their activities, but we understand that our team has successfully trained a large number village health volunteers and undertaken eye tests on hundreds of children and adults during their short stay."

Gareth went on to explain how the charity manages its work saying "We work closely to develop projects with our partner organisation TOCIDA (Tororo Community Initiated Development Association). Then with

the kind support of the people of the Vale, we raise the funds and recruit the volunteers to undertake our project work.

"Over this last year, as well as the eye care and health projects we have helped TOCIDA to; supply water, build a school and run a small fleet of motorcycle ambulances."

"As part of its fundraising activities Vale for Africa is hosting 'Afternoon Tea at The Grind House', coffee shop in Barry on Sunday, September 25 at 2.30pm.

"The event will be an opportunity to meet the team, learn more about the work of the charity and about opportunities to volunteer. Everyone is welcome but numbers are limited and on a first come first serve basis."

For more information and tickets email Gareth at gareth@gka.org.uk or telephone (07984) 127811.

Firefighters are called to incidents via 'an alerter' and must be able to reach their fire station within five minutes.



Fire Service is looking for 'on call' firefighters

SOUTH Wales Fire and Rescue Service has launched a recruitment drive for on-call firefighters to work on a part-time basis at Llantwit Major and Barry Fire Stations

A spokesman said: "We want people who are enthusiastic, committed, physically fit and looking for a new and exciting challenge."

He continued: "Firefighters have one of the most respected jobs in the community. They are dedicated and skilled individuals who

receive ongoing training to support their continuous personal and professional development.

"In addition to fighting fires, road collisions, floods and chemical spills, firefighters develop strong links with community groups, schools and residents in order to raise awareness of accident risks."

On-call firefighters are paid for their commitment and service. They come from every walk of life and include shopkeepers, builders, secretaries, engineers and company directors as well as people who are currently out of employment.

They are recruited on the basis of the amount of cover that they are able to offer. They are called to attend incidents through an alerter that is provided to all on-call personnel.

Once alerted, they must be able to reach

their Fire Station within five minutes.

The spokesman continued: "To apply you will need to have a high level of fitness, be committed to providing service to the community and have good unaided vision and colour vision."

"If you think you have what it takes to join our team and serve and protect your community, come along to our recruitment day on September 24 at Llantwit Major Fire Station, Llanmaes Road, Llantwit Major, CF61 2XD between 10am and 3pm."

"You'll have the opportunity to discuss the role with serving firefighters, practice some of the selection tests and apply on the day if you meet all of the qualifying criteria."

Visit www.southwales-fire.gov.uk or follow @SWFRS_Careers for more information about a career in the Service.

Ysgol Brynteg School

A fo ben bid bont – be a leader, be a bridge



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Thursday 22nd September 2016

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If you have any questions regarding our extensive transition programme, please contact us.



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Brynteg School
Tel: 01656 641800
www.bryntegschool.co.uk

IN BRIEF

Choir try-out
A TASTER session for the Forget-me-Not Chorus, the charity supporting people with dementia and their families, takes place at 2pm – 3pm on Saturday, September 17 in the Lesser Hall, Town Hall Cowbridge.

Refreshments provided. To book your place, contact aholloway@PenarthTownCouncil.org or call 029 2071 3840.

Councillors' surgery

LLANTWIT First Independents will be holding a surgery at the Heritage Centre, Town Hall, Llantwit Major on Saturday, September 17 from 9.30am – 11.30am. Residents who have any issue to raise are welcome to attend.

CAOS concert

CAOS Musical Society will perform *Trial by Jury* by Gilbert and Sullivan at Dinas Powys Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys, on September 30 and at Rhose Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhose, on October 1.

Both performances start at 7.30pm and are followed by a ploughman's supper. Tickets (£8) are available in advance from Dinas Vets or Rhose Spar, or by telephoning 01446 713110.

Amelia Trust annual harvest family fun day



Jane with Alistair Leith from the Organic Field Days project selling pumpkins at the fun day event.

ON Saturday, September 10 Vale AM Jane Hutt supported the Amelia Trust Farm's annual family fun day.

There was lots on offer, including tractor rides, music, a raffle and children's games.

Ms Hutt said: "I am delighted to support this wonderful family event at the Amelia Trust Farm. All money raised helps the farm to continue the excellent work it does with disadvantaged young people."

'First Minister in denial over democratic decision by Welsh electorate'

B RITISH political history is littered with the names of party leaders who were either unwilling or unable to agree with the wishes of the electorate at the ballot box and who proceeded with their own agenda only eventually having to fall on their own sword.

Our First Minister appears likely to have his name added to that list.

The changing political landscape of Wales was reflected in the Assembly election in May with Labour's representation in the Chamber being reduced to 29 with the loss of the Rhondda, an unprecedented rejection of Labour in what must be described as one of Labour's heartlands, the Liberal Democrats losing all their seats but one and the emergence of UKIP.

Indeed, our First Minister only survived the first vote on his re-

election as First Minister with the support of the sole Liberal Democrat AM.

Notwithstanding this obvious diminishing of the authority of Labour both within and without the chamber, the message given by them to the electorate was that once again we, the Welsh people, had shown our support for their policies and leadership. Somewhat ironic if one looks at the real message delivered by the people with their votes.

Since the election, there has been little or no progress in stimulating our economy in order to increase our GDP, which remains of great concern, or to reduce the financial burden placed on our economy by an over-sized public sector that for a country of our population, is simply out of control.

The referendum on Europe was supposedly to be on non-political lines, but Labour here in Wales was constantly 'preaching' the folly of even thinking about Wales voting in favour of Brexit, and it resulted in Wales voting to step out of the

EU controlled zone.

Indeed, the old industrial areas of Wales where Labour once had a stranglehold were the areas most in favour of 'leave' including the Bridgend area where our First Minister is the AM.

Unfortunately, our First Minister continues to be in denial with regard to the decision taken democratically by the majority of the electorate. Far from presenting Wales as a forward-looking nation seeking to take the opportunities that Brexit offers, he seems determined to preach doom and gloom for the years ahead.

His comments made recently in America are not what we expect from anybody who has taken on the responsibility to speak for the future of this great nation as we forge ahead.

The time has arrived for a more positive approach from our First Minister both to the challenges and opportunities here in Wales and on the world stage. **Gareth Jones, Colwinston.**

Lucky winner should sleep soundly on his prize bed!



THE winner of a competition organised by The Place for Homes and Silentnight was Mr Jake Harris.

The prize was a Silentnight bed, and Mr Harris is pictured collecting his prize from Mrs Rhian Francis, the MD of The Place for Homes, at Llandow.

Mrs Francis told The GEM: "Mr Harris was shocked and delighted at being chosen at random from the hundreds of people who entered the competition at the Vale of Glamorgan Show in August.

"Mr Harris selected the Silentnight 1200 Mirapocket, Which magazine's Best Buy for 2016.

"The promotion was to launch the first and only Silentnight Sleep Centre in Wales at The Place for Homes in Llandow, Cowbridge.

"The Silentnight Platinum bed selection, including the Which Best Buy Bed, is on display and exclusive to The Place for Homes in Wales.

Energy saving advice in Penarth

VALE residents could be able to save money on their energy bills with help from the Welsh Government Warm Homes Nest scheme.

The Nest team will be at the Care and Repair 'Warm Up for Winter' event at the Paget Rooms in Penarth on Wednesday, September 21 to provide free energy saving advice to those who worry about their energy bills. The team will be available from 10am to 2pm.

In addition to advice, people who receive a means tested benefit and live in a home that is hard to heat may also be eligible for free home improvements from Nest. These may include a replacement boiler, central heating system or insulation.

Lee Parry, Head of

Nest, said: "Since the scheme started in 2011, Nest has provided free advice and support to over 85,000 households across Wales with over 23,700 householders benefiting from free home improvements."

Nest can be contacted on Freephone 0808 808 2244 or visit www.nestwales.org.uk.

Giving a lift in the Vale

THE Lift (Life Is For Today) group offers friendship and support to those affected by breast cancer.

It meets in Cowbridge once a fortnight, either between 10am and 1pm for relaxation therapies or 2pm to 4pm for other activities, such as speakers or trips out.

Come and join us, bring a friend, for friendly, supportive and confidential get-togethers.

If you know anyone who might benefit from this group, please ring Anne on 01446 772843. We look forward to seeing you.

JH

MOTHER'S CALL TO RAISE AWARENESS OF SEPSIS

WITH 2,200 deaths from Sepsis each year in Wales, there are calls to raise awareness of the illness among the public and healthcare professionals to ensure people can spot the signs of this life-threatening illness early.

As part of World Sepsis Day (September 13), Cardiff and Vale University Health Board has teamed up with UK Sepsis Trust to raise awareness of this life threatening condition that arises when the body's response to an infection injures its own tissues and organs.

Rebecca Howells' son Sam contracted sepsis when he was four years old following a bout of pneumonia. Sam beat the odds and overcame a five per cent chance of survival, facing brain damage, amputation and locked in syndrome during his illness.

He is now eight years old and has undergone nine operations over the last four years and is now riding his bike and taking part in sports days.

There are 10,000 cases of sepsis in children each year of which 1,000 will die. Rebecca is keen that



Rebecca Howells with her son Sam, who survived sepsis four years ago.

there is more awareness of sepsis so no one has to go through what her family did four years ago.

She said: "Over the last four years for me it has been evident that the amount of information readily available on sepsis is lacking. I was sitting in the doctor's surgery recently and there were so many leaflets on meningitis but nothing on sepsis.

"We, the public and some healthcare professionals, are not necessarily clued up on the signs of sepsis which can be caused by any sort of bacteria.

"What I'd like is to raise awareness of sepsis so that people know the signs and know when to take action. Spotting the

signs early could help save a child's life and some people unfortunately don't have the same outcome that Sam had."

The signs of sepsis in children include breathing very fast, a fit or convulsion, pale, mottled skin, a rash which does not fade when pressed, and very lethargic and cold to touch.

Paul Morgan, consultant intensivist

and sepsis lead at Cardiff and Vale UHB said: "Across the world someone dies of sepsis every three-and-a-half seconds with deaths in Wales hitting 2,200 per year. This costs the NHS approximately £125 million. The human cost however, is immeasurable for those who survive sepsis and those who are bereaved.

"Families can be left devastated by sepsis, whether their loved one survives or not. Many survivors are left with long-term physical and psychological damage.

"The key to improving outcomes from sepsis is early, appropriate, aggressive treatment. However, this means that the levels of awareness and knowledge must be raised amongst both the public and healthcare professionals alike."

To find out more about sepsis, visit: www.world-sepsis-day.org; www.sepsistrust.org; www.1000livesplus.wales.nhs.uk/what-is-sepsis/.

Go to the The GEM for the latest stories and breaking news...

www.barry-today.co.uk
www.cowbridge-today.co.uk
www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk
www.bridgend-today.co.uk
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk



'A Caring, Community Focused School' – ESTYN



The Head, Staff and Pupils invite Prospective Parents and Pupils to our Open Evening Thursday 22nd September, 2016.

Tours start at 4 or 4.30pm

In Spring 2015, Pencoed Comprehensive was categorised as a 'Green' (Highly Effective) school by the Welsh Government - Group 1 for standards and Grade A for ability to carry out improvements. One of only nine secondary schools across the Central South region and one of thirty schools (out of 211) across Wales.

In Summer 2016, the school celebrated our best ever GCSE results, with 72% of mainstream pupils achieving five or more A*-C passes, including English and mathematics. In addition, nearly every pupil sitting GCSE exams in 2016 gained five or more passes at A* to C across all subjects.

All of this, coupled with the launch of the Penybont Sixth Form College at Pencoed Comprehensive - our ground-breaking partnership with Bridgend College - means that there has been no better time to join us at Pencoed!

Coychurch Road, Pencoed, Bridgend 01656 867100
admin.pencoedcomp@bridgend.gov.uk www.pencoedcs.bridgend.sch.uk
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Barry Community Garden makes bid for 'Bags of Help'



Lisa Williams, garden manager (right) with garden volunteers.

BARRY Community Garden, managed by Newydd Housing Association, has been shortlisted for the Tesco Bags of Help initiative and is bidding to bag a massive cash boost.

Tesco supermarket has teamed up with 'Groundwork' on its 'Bags of Help' initiative, which awards grants of £12,000, £10,000 and £8,000 – all raised from the 5p bag levy – to environmental and greenspace projects.

More than 2,800 groups up and down the country applied for grants from the scheme, but only three groups in each of Tesco's areas have been shortlisted. Shoppers are being invited to head along to their local Tesco stores to vote for who they think should win the top grant.

Barry Community Garden, managed by Newydd and owned by the Vale Council, is an outdoor project in Gibbonsdown available to the whole community.

Since Newydd took over the garden in spring 2015, it has been transformed by volunteers from a disused piece of land into a beautiful garden, with activities and facilities for people to enjoy.

Lisa Williams, the garden manager, said: "We are thrilled to be shortlisted! We are currently working on a project with the Construction Youth Trust and RNIB to transform a part of the garden into a sensory area.

"With this money we could design and create an

area that would provide a stimulating environment for those with sight loss."

Lindsay Crompton, head of community at Tesco, said: "The first round of the Bags of Help initiative was a fantastic success. In total, 1,170 community groups were awarded £8,000, £10,000 or £12,000 – that's £11.7 million being invested in local projects.

"We are delighted to open the voting for round two. There are some fantastic projects on the shortlists and we can't wait to see them come to life in hundreds of communities."

Groundwork's national chief executive, Graham Duxbury, said: "Bags of Help is giving our communities both the funding and the support to create better, healthier and greener places for everyone to enjoy. We've been thrilled to see the diversity of projects that have applied for funding, ranging from outdoor classrooms, sports facilities, to community gardens, play areas and everything in between. They're all fantastic projects that make a real difference in our neighbourhoods."

Voting is open in stores from Monday, September 26 to Sunday, October 9. Customers will cast their vote using a token given to them at the check-out in store each time they shop.

Citizens' Advice says 'make prompt pension plans'

TODAY (Thursday, September 15) is Pension Awareness Day and Cardiff & Vale Citizens Advice is encouraging people to plan earlier for a comfortable retirement.

The charity says that many people in Cardiff and the Vale find pensions confusing and can be put off by complex language and paperwork, leaving their retirement plans to the last minute.

Previous research from national Citizens Advice shows that one in four people (27 per cent) with a defined contribution pension feel they don't understand their pension plan.

The research also finds people aren't checking their pension, with just under a quarter of people (22 per cent) not knowing how much was in their pension pot and almost one in six people (15 per cent) checking their pension value less than every two years.

Following last year's pension freedoms, people who are 55 and over now have more options on how to take money from their defined contribution pension.

The changes mean that for the first time you

have the option to buy an annuity (a guaranteed income), take an adjustable income, cash in a lump sum or a mixture of these options.

Cardiff & Vale Citizens Advice offers face to face appointments with the government's guidance service, Pension Wise, where people 50 and over with defined contribution pensions can get free and impartial information about their options.

Roger O'Brien, Pension Wise guidance specialist, said: "Many people don't engage with their pension until it's time to make a decision about their retirement.

"While retiring from work may seem far away, we're encouraging people to start making plans for their retirement savings.

"The pension freedoms mean there are more options than ever before and our Pension Wise team can help get you on the right track to a financially secure retirement."

To book a face to face or telephone Pension Wise appointment, call 0800 138 8292. Otherwise, you can visit Cardiff & Vale Citizens Advice to book an appointment.

'Mr Sleek' announces his 'Woman Of The Year' who lost an incredible nine stone

SIGNED WATKISS from Barry was crowned Slimming World's Woman of the Year at Buttrills Community recently, after losing an incredible nine stones.

Sioned had said that when she first joined her local Slimming World group, she was a bag of nerves.

"I need not have worried because everyone was so lovely and friendly, and incredibly supportive. I had the shock of my life when I got off the scales for the first time – I was 19st 2lbs."

Sioned explained: "I've struggled with my weight since childhood. I used to go to the dietician in our local doctor's surgery in Llanberis, north Wales to get weighed every week.

"I was only 13 or 14 at this time and I used to feel very embarrassed as my friends at school were all slim.

"I got bullied for a short period of time in school. I don't really like to talk about it but I did have some children kick me in the corridors and even try and push me down the stairs, and they would call me beast.

"I moved to Cardiff when I was 21 and piled on more weight. I tried all the fad diets going. I even tried joining the gym and soon got bored as there was no change really in me.

"Even with my wedding coming up I still didn't do much about it, and my wedding dress was a size 20!

"With Slimming World, nothing is off-limits and you never, ever feel hungry. In just six months I had already lost over four stones. If I wanted treats, I had them. If I had a gain one week, I kept going to the group. I knew the plan worked, and I loved the changes it was making, so I kept going.

"By Christmas 2015 I had lost six and a half

stones. I went home to north Wales to visit family and friends and the reactions I got were simply amazing. My mother was in tears and popped open a bottle of champagne, saying that this was an 'OMG' moment and that they were so proud of me!

"At the beginning of the year, my husband Steve and I bought our very first home in Barry and I managed to still make my way to my Slimming World class until my husband spotted a poster to a class in Barry on a Saturday morning.

"This was perfect for me. Soon Martin took over the class and I knew he was going to be amazing.

"We have a very lively and warm group, and the encouragement and support he has given to me is truly fantastic.

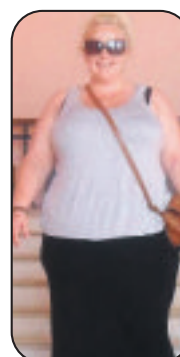
"Martin asked me if I wanted to be part of our social team, so I get the chance to help others on their journeys too. I love it.

"Martin is such an inspiration to the class having lost ten stones himself and being a national competition winner.

"I was over the moon to be awarded Woman of the Year 2016 in our group. With nearly nine stones off, I'm slowly getting close to target."

Martin added: "Sioned is such an inspiration to the members and we all love her in the group. She never fails to attend, because she wants to help others on their own path too. She really is a beautiful person on the inside and out. I was so privileged to be able to put Sioned forward to the next stage of the national competition."

The group meets at Buttrills Community Centre, North Walk, CF62 7EY at 8am and 10am. If you would like to, come along, or contact Martin on 07827 445 570.



Sioned Watkiss, before Slimming World...



...Sioned now!

Taking in the rich history of Chepstow

TERRY from Penarth and District Ramblers was joined by a group of eight for the train journey from Cardiff Central over the border to Chepstow on a beautiful sunny morning.

Heading through the town and reaching the ruined old Port Wall and then Gunstock Wharf which is renowned for its history of shipbuilding, just downstream was the rebuilt 19th century cast iron Chepstow Bridge which spans the River Wye.

Beneath their feet a colourful ceramic tile mural beside the river marks the start or finishing point of the Wales Coast Path, depending on whether you are starting or finishing, and depicts all the counties the path passes through on its 870-mile journey from Chepstow to Flintshire.

Returning back into the town where the 15th century Priory Church of St Mary was constructed by the Norman lord William FitzOsbern at the same time as the castle, a climb through a residential area led into woodland and the Bulwark, a 20th century residential area named after an Iron Age hill fort which is known locally as The Warren.

A tunnel below the busy M4 followed by the circumnavigation of a large industrial complex led into fields for the journey to Mathern village and the church dedicated to St Tewdric, who was King of Gwent.

Following victory at the battle of Pont-y-Saeson near Tintern, during which he was badly injured, and making the journey back to Flat Holm in the Bristol Channel, Tewdric died and is buried at the place where the church now stands.

Crossing onto St Pierre Golf Course, fields

and a railway line on the Caldicot Levels led them to the grassy banks of the River Severn with its fine views of both Severn crossings on the skyline.

As this area has the second highest tide in the world, the area is composed of sandbanks, mudflats, wetlands and salt marshes, which they passed as they trekked on to reach Black Rock for lunch in the picnic area.

This historic site once led the Roman legions by boat across the river to Chissell Pill near Bristol and in more modern times is home to 'Lave Net' fishing using traditional Y-shaped nets to catch fish on the ebb tide.

Continuing to Sudbrook, where most of the housing was built for the workers and their families during the construction of the Severn Tunnel, and passing underneath the second Severn Bridge, curving its way across the river, they returned inland to the special station that was built on the Caldicot Levels at Rogiet to serve Severn Tunnel Junction before boarding the train home.

On September 17, meet at 8.30am at Cogan Leisure Centre for an 11-mile moderate circular walk from Glasbury to Hay-on-Wye; contact Sylvia on 029 2070 8758.

On September 18, meet at 8.30am at Cogan for a 10-mile hard walk taking in Fan Brycheiniog, Llyn y Fan Fach and Fawr; contact Robin on 029 2051 4051.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Classic car club goes extra mile for Marie Curie

ON Wednesday, September 28 members of the south Wales branch of the Morris Minor Owners Club (MMOC) will be fundraising in Tesco Penarth to help raise money for the Marie Curie Cardiff and Vale Hospice.

The members will also be visiting the hospice on Thursday, September 29 with their charity car to meet the staff.

The event is part of celebrations for the 40th anniversary of the MMOC which are being marked by an ambitious national expedition that will raise money for Marie Curie, the UK's leading charity for people living with terminal illness and their families.

The club is taking an iconic 1962 Morris Minor on a trip across the UK, visiting Marie Curie shops and all nine of Marie Curie's hospices, on the way.

The car will journey from John O'Groats to Land's End over a period

of around five weeks and will also visit a number of locations that are significant to the history of the car and the development of the club, which was first established in 1976.

When the car stops in Penarth it will be joined by Morris Minor owners (and their cars) from the south Wales branch of the club (MMOC).

Georgina Burke, of Cardiff and Vale hospice, said: "We can't thank the MMOC and their members enough for their kind and continued support for Marie Curie. It really is an ambitious journey and it's heart-warming to see them sharing their passion for the Morris Minor in such a positive way. The marathon will raise vital funds that will make a real difference for people in the UK who are living with terminal illness, and for their families."

The marathon begins on Friday, September 2 and is scheduled to reach Land's End on Saturday, October 1. Over the course of the trip, the car will cover 135 individual stages and make 75 stops.

The Penarth Hockey Club news round-up

PENARTH Hockey Club's second XI faced a tough task in their opening pre-season friendly, lining up against a Llanishen & Caerphilly side that will be playing in the league above them this season.

It was a first test for the new captain/vice-captain combination of Sam Chick and Jamie Davison, who take over the reins from Matt Birch and James Davies, who bowed out after leading the team to De Cymru 2 league success and a cup final appearance last year.

Penarth started strongly and, with a new formation, managed to dominate the opening exchanges, appearing to take an early lead after only ten minutes when Tom Parkinson did extremely well to find Matt Birch, who slapped the ball home at the far post, only for the goal to be controversially ruled out for an earlier offence by the Llanishen & Caerphilly defence.

Penarth and Birch were not to be denied, however, with the former captain converting a second chance minutes later, after Chris McCarthy had robbed a visiting defender inside the 'D' and fed the ball to the far post.

Llanishen & Caerphilly tightened up after conceding the goal and, in their frustration, Penarth were guilty of losing their shape a little, forcing goalkeeper Mark Harris into action before the interval.

On both occasions, however, the Welsh Over-40s regular was up to the task and the home side went into half-time still a goal to the good.

Penarth were able to

regroup during the break and, as in the first half, were again able to dominate the opening exchanges at the restart.

In a repeat of the earlier passage of play, their efforts would be rewarded with a goal when an excellent attacking move was neatly converted by Dave Kidby.

Penarth remained on top for the rest of the game, but were guilty of some rusty finishing and were unable to add a third goal before the final whistle.

Much credit for the eventual 2-0 scoreline must also go to the defensive efforts of the back four, which limited the visitors to a few half-chances and gave Harris a relatively quiet afternoon between the sticks.

The performance and final result, however hard-earned, will give the Vale side to take a lot of confidence to take to Swansea this weekend for the annual cup qualifying competition.

After losing in the Welsh Challenge final last season, Penarth will aim to go one step further this time around, and can qualify if they can finish in the top two in the seven-team tournament on Saturday.

PENARTH 7, NORTH SOMERSET 5

The first XI continued their preparation for the coming season by hosting North Somerset in a high-scoring encounter at Stanwell School.

After a series of 'unofficial' friendlies throughout August, the senior Penarth side topped the ante by facing off against a side from the parallel Conference South division as they look to build on the league and cup double

that not only earned some welcome silverware for the Vale club but also elevated them further into the Wales and West echelon of the GoCrea8 Hockey League.

With a handful of new faces in the ranks, attracted to Penarth by the free-flowing hockey exhibited throughout 2015-16, the home side were able to create a lot of pressure on the North Somerset area, but also needed to defend against the strongest opposition faced in some time.

Penarth eventually ran out 7-5 winners on an afternoon where both goalkeepers got a good work-out, and will take heart from the performance of a side still missing some of its regulars as it moves closer to its Conference North debut on October 1.

LLANISHEN & CAERPHILLY 'A' 4, PENARTH C 0

Bolstered by a number of third XI players, Penarth's reformed 'C' team travelled to face Llanishen & Caerphilly in their first fixture in over 20 years.

Having thought that the opposition was going to be comprised of players from the Cardiff club's lower 11s; however, the visitors found themselves facing a side predominantly made up of second XI players.

Despite this, the embryonic Penarth side gave a good account of themselves and, whilst rarely threatening the Llanishen goal throughout a game based around the unusual format of three 25-minute periods, the final 4-0 scoreline was hardly a fair reflection on a game where the Bears more than held their own for long periods.

With youngsters Jack Ritchie and man-of-the-match Rhys Meddins making their senior debuts, the future looks to be one of great promise for the club in general and Penarth 'C' in particular.

This Saturday sees the 'C-siders' travelling to Newport to face a Gwent 'B' development side with more of the promising youngsters coming through the Penarth youth development programme expected to be given their senior debuts.

All four Penarth Hockey Club sides are due to be in action this weekend with the second XI looking to come through the qualifying stages of the Welsh Cup competitions, while the firsts entertain

Whitchurch 'A' ahead of the third XI's fixture with Cardiff Medics, as the fourths travel to Newport to face Gwent 'B'.

Anyone interested in joining the club at senior or youth level can contact club secretary Dave Stevens (d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk) for further information. CL

Cowbridge under-13s in high-scoring game

COWBRIDGE under-13s kicked off their 2016-17 campaign with a pre-season fixture played over three periods at 'altitude' against Pentrych.

After a summer with significant changes in personnel the coaches were left pleased with the effort of a squad which showed promising signs for the campaign ahead.

Cowbridge started the game in terrific fashion with good ball retention by the forwards through several phases of play, leading to a well-taken score from the excellent Fin Brace.

Pentrych hit back quickly as some defensive lapses and rusty organisational play allowed their two speedy wingers to run in three unanswered tries to finish the first period the stronger, the score 19-5 to Pentrych.

The second period saw a more aggressive defence and good line speed from Cowbridge ratchet up the pressure on the home side.

The hosts looked more vulnerable and some sustained pressure allowed Brace to cross for a well-taken second try, injuring himself in the process.

This was swiftly followed by a superb individual score from Fin Sullivan who rounded his opposite number and flew in from 50 yards for the score of the day to make the score 19-15 at the end of the second period.

Pentrych came out for

the final period having been given a talking to by the coaches and a lapse in concentration by Cowbridge after a Pentrych clearing kick saw them cross for a further converted score.

With time against them, Cowbridge upped their game around the contact area and worked their way up the field for Tom Brennan to gallop over from short range and bring the boys to within a score, Akka Guwy adding the conversion.

With the last action of the game however, the hosts added another well-worked try after a fine bullocky run by their tall substitute lock, the final score 31-22.

A near-full squad had valuable game time in this outing and gave a good account of themselves against the former district champions.

Tightening up the defences for this Sunday's visit of the dangerous Llanishen side is a must, but all the boys, and especially the three new squad members, acquitted themselves well to set up a mouth-watering season ahead.

Squad: Lewys Robins, Finlay Ball, Sebastian Johns-Powell, Alfie Rees, Tom Brennan, Rhys Ford, Aron Kempson, Oliver Jones, Ifor Rees, Robbie Brown, Akka Guwy, Archie Lloyd, Rhys Pritchard, Steffan Evans, Paddy Kennedy, Aaron Holcombe, Rhys Hardman, Finlay Brace, James Jones, Finlay Sullivan, Will Harris.

IH

Great turnout for Highlight Race



ABOVE LEFT: Martin Rudkin came first sailing Tomahawk, and ABOVE RIGHT: Brian Dotchon came in second place.

THE 49th annual Highlight Race was held at Barry Yacht Club on Saturday, September 10, with 20 boats lining up at the start.

The weather forecast for Saturday was very good and this appears to have encouraged both visitors and BYC members to take part.

The very encouraging entry of 20 vessels included nine visitors, from Porlock Weir Boating & Sailing Club and Cardiff Yacht Club.

The actual weather was somewhat overcast but the wind was generally a moderate force three from the northwest and the sun did make a short appearance towards the end of the race. The wind remained steady for most of the time with only occasional increased gusts.

The course set by the officer of the day, Vice Commodore John Wilson, received general approval and involved a broad reaching first leg from the start off Jackson's Bay to the Holm Middle buoy which is located between Flat and Steep Holm.

There followed a beam reach up to the Tail Patch buoy north east of Flat Holm before the beat home to Barry via the South Cardiff buoy off Lavernock Point.

The fleet spread out quite quickly from the start with the faster boats, and those flying spinnakers, getting ahead. It was necessary to jibe at the first mark for the reach on port tack to Tail Patch.

At this point competitors had to decide whether to remain on port tack, and cross the shallow water off Cardiff, or come about onto starboard tack towards Flat Holm.

The lead was Gerry Field, No 2 was Paul Booth, No 3 was Barrie Bagwell and the skip was Dave Purser.

Flat Holm.

The eventual winner, Tomahawk, sailed by Martin Rudkin of Barry Yacht Club, followed this course. The second and third boats, Brian Dotchon's Sally Loper, also of BYC, and Hidden Secret, sailed by Colin Brooks of Cardiff YC, went in towards Cardiff.

The wind freshened at times during the final beat home and there were some short seas to negotiate off Lavernock Point and Sully Island when the ebb began to run.

The leading boat, the Soling keelboat Madcap, finished the course in less than three hours and the leading cruiser, Violet Flame, was only some 15 minutes astern.

The finishers were then spread out over a period of about one and a half hours. The prizegiving took place later that evening at the BYC Clubhouse before a well-attended supper.

Generous money prizes and replicas were awarded to the first

three boats on corrected time and there was also a special trophy for Madcap (Mark Fisher) the first boat home.

Trophies were also awarded to the first boat from the north shore of the Bristol Channel, won by Tomahawk, and from the south shore, won by Sophie of Porlock Weir BSC.

John Webb, Highlight Building, and John Wilson, Vice Commodore, thanked the competitors for attending and those involved in organising the event both afloat and ashore.

The general consensus was that everyone had a very enjoyable day both afloat and in the convivial atmosphere of Barry YC.

The race, which was originally named the BBC TV Race, has been generously supported by Highlight Building and Property Maintenance since 2010.

SK

Cowbridge Darts League round-up

ON Tuesday, September 6, the 2016-2017 season of the Cowbridge Darts League got underway.

Last season's champions, the Edmondson B, got off to a good start beating the Highwayman Inn 7-2.

The Edmondson A beat the new team, the Victoria Inn, 7-2 and Six Bells Inn beat the Farmers Arms B by the same score.

The Edmondson C beat the Red Lion 8-1, while in the tightest match of the evening Llanharri beat the Farmers Arms 5-4.

It was an evening of high-scoring darts with Lee Davies (Llanharri), Richard Williams (Edmondson C) and Martin Thomas (Edmondson B) hitting 180s and some excellent three-dart-outs by Tony Fox (Farmers Arms) 88 and Martin Thomas (Edmondson B), 94, but the first 100+ out was

achieved by Joan Burt (Red Lion) 115.

Present league standings, after one game, are: Edmondson C (8 points), Edmondson B, Edmondson A and Six Bells Inn (7), Llanharri (5), Farmers Arms (4), Victoria Inn, Farmers B and Highwayman Inn (2) and Red Lion (1).

Next week, Tuesday September 20, we have another full programme of league fixtures.

The Edmondson B hosts the Victoria Inn, the Farmers B hosts Llanharri, the Edmondson C hosts the Highwayman Inn, the Red Lion hosts the Farmers Arms and the Six Bells Inn hosts the Edmondson A.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are always welcome.

For further information e-mail Paul a cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

Millwood wrap up the season

WEDNESDAY evening saw Millwood A side welcome runaway leaders of Division 7 Penygraig to the club for the final match of the 2016 season.

The match got underway and after five ends the game was all square, 16-16. Over the next five ends, Alan Bumford and Peter Taylor and their rinks were proving equal to the task against their opponents, but Gary Williams and Jim Butler with their rinks were finding their opponents rather hotter to handle and overall the score started to swing against the home team, 37-27, in the visitors' favour.

Nevertheless Millwood teams are known for their tenacity and continued to fight

strenuously on all rinks, but our visitors were not going to be denied their aim of completing the season unbeaten and won the match 71-61, which, as their captain conceded in the after-match speeches, was the closest result for them all season.

Congratulations to all Millwood players for a fine effort.

Club captain Alan Evans thanks all members for their support this season and wishes all indoor bowlers good bowling over the winter and looks forward to meeting members at the social functions arranged over the winter at the clubhouse.

Finally a big thank you to The GEM for their support not only to us at Millwood but the local bowling community generally.

BH

Go to our dedicated sports page for the latest stories and breaking news... @sport_gem

Belle Vue sign off season with a win

BELLE VUE won their last game of the season in the Cardiff League by 10 points to four, winning by 12½ shots after adjustment.

Rink one won by 19½ to 18 after the score adjustment, again this rink had only three men in. Lead was Richard Fitzjohn, No 3 was Dave Miller and the skip was captain Malcolm Thomas.

Rink two won 31-8. The lead was Gerry Field, No 2 was Paul Booth, No 3 was Barrie Bagwell and the skip was Dave Purser.

Rink three lost 21-17. The lead was Colin Scammell, No 2 was new recruit Dave Bradley, No 3 was Richard Brant and

the skip was Trevor Ford. Rink four also lost 23-15. Lead was Frank Keen, No 2 was Gordon Ford, No 3 was Len Fowler and the skip was Paul Paterson.

All in all, Belle Vue had a very good league season, the best for a few years. Well done, everyone. Both the captain Malcolm Thomas and the chairman, Dave Purser, praised the team for their efforts for the season.

Lastly, Belle Vue would like to thank Caerphilly Bowling Club for good buffet and the spirit the game was played in.

See you all next season, and best wishes from me.

FRANK KEEN

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MINIS AND JUNIORS GET NEW KIT BOOST!

WITH the previous kit starting to show its age after four seasons of use, plus a massive intake at under-7s and an under-16s team, Llantwit Major mini and junior RFC decided it was time to invest in a new strip.

As you can imagine, the cost to kit out the whole section is phenomenal so sponsorship is needed to help with costs.

Due to the economic downturn the previous main sponsor was unable to continue to support the section so the search was on for a new sponsor. In the end assistance came from within with a number of parents coming to the rescue.

Paul Ingram of Pier Consulting stepped up to become the new main shirt sponsor. Paul, a father of two up-and-coming players, said: "We have a history of



supporting grass roots sport with a number of previous sponsorship campaigns, and when my sons club was looking for a sponsor it was ideal for us to step in and assist.

"The mini and junior section have produced a number of top class players in the past and hopefully with our support a future Wales or British Lions player could come through the ranks."

With plenty of space left for further

sponsorship, Dave Daw of Davey Daw Builders and Brian Henson of Sinclair Direct added to the funds.

Dave said: "As an ex-player and father to one of the under-10s squad I wanted to put something back into the club."

"The new kit looks fantastic and hopefully helps the boys and girls feel proud to represent Llantwit Major RFC."

Brian, who is also chairman of the mini and junior section, added:

"Our son is now in the final group of the section and has enjoyed playing at every age since six years old!"

"My company has supported where they can, mainly by sponsoring the annual tournament."

"The section has continued to grow and it's great to see so many new children join the club and start their rugby playing career."

IG

Taste of defeat a unique one for the under-11s!

THE under-11s Cowbridge rugby team experienced something for the first time since they were under-9s on Sunday - they didn't win a tournament they had entered!

The coaches decided to give the boys an early season test and entered the Newbridge tournament, where as well as the hosts, we would be playing Blackwood, Pontypool and Ebbw Vale, none of whom we had ever played. Due to the size of our squad, two teams were entered from Cowbridge.

Cowbridge 1 were first up against Newbridge and the boys were clinical in their approach and ran out easy winners 35-0, with tries from Harry New (2), Osian Bruce and James Lord (2). It was pleasing that the forwards also got onto the score sheet with tries from Ned Rees and Ioan Phillips.

Cowbridge 2 then took to the field against Ebbw Vale. Unfortunately, we didn't play to our usual high standards and lost 50-0.

They were next up against Newbridge and started to demonstrate their ability, winning 10-0, with tries from L. Thomas and new boy Harry Smith.

Cowbridge 1 then returned to the field to play Pontypool, in a game where Harry New turned on the style, running in all of our three unanswered tries, winning the game 15-0.

Cowbridge 2 next played Blackwood, who were so large that we assumed they were on the wrong pitch and were looking for the under-13s area. We didn't manage to challenge them and lost 20-0.

Ebbw Vale then played Cowbridge 1, which proved to be the toughest game of the day. Harry New opened the scoring, which was followed by Ebbw Vale attacking our line for a sustained period.

Despite showing tremendous defence, they eventually broke through, to equal the score. Time was just about to run out, with both teams having given their all and Harry burst through their line, scoring his second of the game for a winning score 10-5.

Cowbridge 1 had to retake the field to face Blackwood and the previous game had taken its toll. They battled hard but just didn't have the energy reserves and lost a tight game 10-5, with Harry New once again on the scoresheet. Cowbridge 2 then played Pontypool and tried their best, but lost against a well-drilled team 30-5, with our try being scored by Will Brennan, in what

turned out to be probably the try of the tournament running the length of the pitch.

We were due to play each other next, but the organisers decided to change the plan. Ebbw Vale and Cowbridge 1 had each lost one game and had scored the same number of tries.

It was felt that it would be unfair for the tournament to be decided on the outcome of Cowbridge playing ourselves, so it was agreed that Cowbridge 2 would play Newbridge again so as not to lose out on total game time and the Cowbridge 1 would play Ebbw Vale to decide the tournament winners.

Having already beaten both their respective opponents earlier in the day, the squad were confident entering their final games.

Cowbridge 2 sprinted into an early three try lead with scores from Harry Smith and Leo Beghini (2) only for Newbridge to get a late consolation try for a final 15-5 score.

The crowd then gathered to watch the final of what had been a great day's rugby. Ebbw Vale started strongly, attacking our line, but being unable to break through with our boys showing tremendous defence.

This didn't change for the entire game, as we just couldn't break through the Ebbw Vale line, but not letting them through ours. However, the game was all being played in our own 22.

In the final play of the game, their pressure told and crossed our line for the winning score of an exhilarating contest.

To come runners-up is a great achievement and the squad should be very proud. We look forward to our revenge when we are due to play them again in another tournament in a few weeks' time. Watch out Ebbw Vale!!

Even though we didn't win the tournament, we did win an award. Harry Smith won the player of the tournament award. Well done Harry.

Squad: Sam Sheppard, Charlie Berkeley-Smith, Will Brennan, Ollie Gale, Corey Williams, Paddy Whitestone, Osian Bruce, Ned Rees, Joe Funtek, L. Thomas, Harry New, Josh Canning, Wil Martin, Joe Davies, James Lord, James Collingridge, Jacob Robson, Henry Davies, George Tuckley, Ben Stephenson, Ioan Phillips, Joe Arentsen, Harry Smith, Tom Hamlett, Leo Beghini, Luc Martin, Sam Jackson, Jimmy Williams and Tom Clarke.

AL

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG Deddf Cynllunio a Phrynu Gorfodol 2004

Rheoliadau Asesu Amgylcheddol Cynlluniau a Rhaglenni (Cymru) 2004

Rheoliadau Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref (Cynllun Datblygu Lleol) (Cymru) 2005

Hysbysiad o Newidiadau Materion yn Codi i'r Cynllun Datblygu Lleol

Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Bro Morgannwg 2011 - 2026

Mae'n ofynnol i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg baratoi Cynllun Datblygu Lleol (Call) yn unol â Deddf Cynllunio a Phrynu Gorfodol 2004. Bydd y CDLI hwn, ar ôl cael ei fabwysiad, yn disodli'r Cynllun Datblygu Unedol presennol a bydd yn sail i benderfyniadau ar gynllunio defnydd tir ym Mro Morgannwg. Mae CDLI Bro Morgannwg yn destun Archwiliad ar hyn o bryd ac mae'r Gyngor yn ymgynghori ar nifer o newidiadau arfaethedig sydd wedi dod i'r amlwg o ganlyniad i faterion yn codi yn ystod gwrandawiadau'r Archwiliad. Bydd y cynnod ymgynghori yn para o Ddydd Gwener 16 Medi tan hanner nos Ddydd Gwener 28 Hydref 2016.

Mae'r newidiadau arfaethedig yn ymwneud ag effennau o ddatganiad ysgrifenedig y CDLI a'r map argymhellion ac wedi eu nodi yn yr Atodlen Newidiadau Materion yn Codi (NMC). Gellir gweld copïau o'r Atodlen NMC, ynghyd â dogfennau'r Arfarniad Cynaliadwyedd NMC (AS) (yn cynnwys yr Aseiad Amgylcheddol Strategol) ac Aseiad Rheoliadau Cynfioedd (ARhC) NMC ar wefan y Gyngor - www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp Mae copïau caled hefyd ar gael i'r cyhoedd eu harchwilio yn ystod oriau agor arferol yn y lleoliadau canlynol:

- Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Holton Road, y Barri, CF63 4RU
- Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfia'r Dociau, Dociau'r Barri, y Barri, CF63 4RT
- Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Alps Depot, Quarry Road, Y Wenfô, CF5 6AA
- Pob llyfrgell ym Mro Morgannwg

Dylid anfon sylwadau ynghylch yr Atodlen NMC, NMC AS a NMC ARhC yn ysgrifenedig at (yn ddelfrydol ar ffurflein cyflwyno sylwadau) y Tim CDLI, Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfia'r Dociau, Dociau'r Barri, y Barri, CF63 4RT. Mae'r ffurflein i gyflwyno sylwadau i'w chael o'r lleoliadau uchod neu ar-lein www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp. Gellir anfon ffurflein sylwadau wedi eu cwblhau un ai at y Tim CDLI yn y cyfeiriad uchod neu drwy e-bost i ldp@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Ar y pwynt hwn dim ond sylwadau yn ymwneud â'r Newidiadau i Faterion yn Codi y dylid eu gwneud. Nid yw'r ymgynghoriad yn gyfle i ychwanegu at sylwadau blaenorol nac i gyflwyno sylwadau newydd ar rannau o'r Cynllun nad ydynt yn wynebu newid. Caiff unrhyw sylwadau o'r math hwnnw eu dyystyru oherwydd y dylid fod wedi eu gwneud yn ystod cynfodau cynharach o baratoi'r Cynllun. Caiff sylwadau priodol eu hystyried gan yr Arolygydd a benodwyd i archwilio cadernid y cynllun. Nodwch y bydd yr holl ymatebion ar gael i'r cyhoedd eu gweld ac ni ellir eu trin yn gyfrinachol.

Ar gyfer unrhyw ymholiadau yn ymwneud â'r Archwiliad, cysylltwch â'r Swyddog Rhaglen Sarah Knevett ar 01446 704610 neu e-bostiwch programmeofficer@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Gellir cael mwy o wybodaeth ar yr ymgynghoriad Newidiadau Materion yn Codi ar wefan y Cyngor www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp neu drwy gysylltu â'r Tim CDLI drwy e-bost: ldp@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk neu drwy ffonio: 01446 704665/ 704663.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004

The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005

Notice of Matters Arising Changes to the Local Development Plan

Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011 - 2026

The Vale of Glamorgan Council under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 is required to prepare a Local Development Plan (LDP). The LDP will, upon adoption replace the current Unitary Development Plan and form the basis for decisions on land use planning in the Vale of Glamorgan. The Vale of Glamorgan LDP is currently undergoing Examination and the Council is consulting on a number of proposed changes that have emerged as a result of matters arising during hearing sessions of the Examination. The consultation period will run from Friday 16th September to midnight on Friday 28th October 2016.

The proposed changes relate to elements of the LDP written statement and the proposals map and are set out in the Matters Arising Changes (MAC) Schedule. Copies of the MAC Schedule, together with the MAC Sustainability Appraisal (SA) (incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment) and MAC Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) documents can be viewed on the Council's web site at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp. Paper copies are also available for public inspection during normal opening hours at the following locations:

- Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU
- Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT
- Vale of Glamorgan Council, Alps Depot, Quarry Road, Wenvoe, CF5 6AA
- All Vale of Glamorgan Libraries.

Representations in respect of the MAC Schedule, MAC SA and MAC HRA should be sent in writing (preferably on the representation form) to the LDP Team, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT. The form for making representations is available at the above locations or online at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp. Completed representation forms may either be sent the LDP Team at the above address or emailed to ldp@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Representations (including support and objections) at this stage must only relate to the Matters Arising Changes. The consultation is not an opportunity to add to previous representations or to make new representations on parts of the Plan that are not subject to change. Any such representations will be disregarded as they should have been made during the earlier stages of Plan preparation. All duly made representations will be considered by the Inspector appointed to examine the soundness of the Plan. Please note that all responses will be made available for public inspection and cannot be treated as confidential.

For queries regarding the Examination, please contact the Programme Officer Sarah Knevett on 01446 704610 or e mail programmeofficer@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Further information on the Matters Arising Changes consultation is available on the Council's website www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp or by contacting the LDP team by e mail: ldp@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or phone: 01446 704665/ 704663.

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- Sought after village
- No chain

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- 3 reception rooms

- Double garage
- Sea views

£435,000

THE LIMPET, GILESTON



- 4 bedrooms
- Detached annexe

- Double garage
- Beach location

£435,000

WEST WINDS, PEN-Y-FAI



- Extended 4 bed property
- Secluded location

- Potential building plot
- 3 garages

£560,000

THE MEADOWS, CORNTOWN



- Semi detached property
- 3 bedrooms

- Cul de sac position
- Conservatory

£725pcm



Bridgend Male Choir in fine voice at Tabernacl Church



Bridgend Male Choir in concert at Capel y Tabernacl.

THE Bridgend Male Choir has outgrown its origins in 1960 as a police choir to become one of Wales' leading choral organisations, with a notable record of competitive success and appearances at large scale charity and entertainment events.

Their concert on September 9 at Capel y Tabernacl, Bridgend, was its first 'annual' under newly-appointed MD, Ryan Wood.

An accomplished musician who has already worked with renowned choirs like Pendyrus and Treorchy, Ryan can feel well pleased with himself at the performance of his 70 choristers when a packed audience showed its warm appreciation of a varied programme that extended from arrangements of traditional Welsh airs and hymns to Gounod and Verdi.

He was ably supported by accompanist Stephanie Bailey, organist Scott Williams – who delivered a robust performance of Widor's famous *Toccata* – and

soprano soloist Angharad Morgan, who established a warm rapport with the audience with delightful performances of Lehar, Ivor Novello and Meirion Williams' ravishing 'Pan Ddaw'r Nos.'

A notable item from the choir itself was the closing item of the first half – Eric Jones' arrangement of *Christus Salvator*, performed with accuracy and a rich, warm tone.

The second half saw the audience tapping its feet to items such as 'Ride The Chariot' and 'I Could Have Danced All Night' and a deserving standing ovation followed the finale – a stirring rendition of 'You'll Never Walk Alone'.

This final item bringing together choir, soloist, organist and accompanist for a fitting end to an entertaining evening which was skilfully compered by choir chairman, Gareth Davies.

There is no doubt that with new musical director, Ryan Wood at the helm, the future is bright for this choral organisation.

Bravo to all!

Stewart Roberts, Musical director, Pendyrus Male Choir

Tales of Cefn Cribwr at charity evening

THE guest speaker at the cheese and wine evening that the Bridgend County Civic Charity held at Seasons Restaurant, Bridgend College on Wednesday, September 7 was Mr John Mason from Cefn Cribwr, helped and supported by his wife Carol.

The topic was 'Stories Worth Telling' and John explained about John Bedford and Cefn Cribwr Ironworks, then spoke on the book he had written – *Ben's Kingdom* – about Ben Evans, an ex-collier who had lived in a hut on Kenfig dunes for over 20 years, who was reported as a Welsh Robinson Crusoe by the South Wales Echo many years ago.

This was followed by stories written by his father David Mason entitled *Toilets I Have Known and Loved*.

A fascinating and honest experience of toilets, from 1920s until the present day, a social history of reminiscences and 'adventures' in the smallest room. This was guaranteed to raise a smile on every face.

Then Anwen Angharad, an outstanding artist, entertained with some Welsh songs accompanied on the piano by her mother Rhiannon

Dixon. The comperè for the evening was Coun Huw David, who was born and bred in Cefn Cribwr and welcomed John as one who had only been living in the village for 43 years.

The evening was a big success and Ms Kim Jenkins, college staff member in charge of the restaurant, set the restaurant to perfection for this special event. Kim attended to the guests and was on hand at all times with confidence, kindness and politeness, and it was a pleasure to be served.

The Civic Charity committee and the Mayor of the County Borough of Bridgend thank Simon Pirotte, principal and chief executive officer at Bridgend College for donating the use of the restaurant for the charity event, which raised £400 including £50 donated by John Mason from the sale of some books.

The next charity event is on Sunday, September 18 at 7pm-11pm at The Golden Well Oriental Restaurant, A48 Brocastle, Bridgend with guest Simon Gwynne, partnership manager at Halo, Bridgend and his topic will be 'What Motivates People to be Active'. Soloist: Anwen Angharad.

Tickets: £21 per person. To reserve a place contact Mari on 01656 651491 or Marlene on 01656 871439. MM

Dressage expert shows all the right moves

THE members of the Southerndown WI spent a lot of time during the summer cheering on our athletes in the Olympic Games, and enjoying the spectacle of sports we had rarely seen since the home Games in 1912.

A commonly-heard question was: "How do they do that?" usually asked in relation to dressage.

In our September meeting, that question was answered.

At the start of the meeting Michele, our president, covered all the relevant business regarding future events, as illustrated in the newsletter.

We were then delighted to welcome our speaker, Sam Whyley, who is a freelance riding instructor specialising in dressage.

Sam gave a fascinating talk, taking us through his career,

including training in the Netherlands and Canada, and working with disadvantaged children developing their confidence as they worked with and learned to ride horses.

He also offers private riding lessons to riders of all ages and abilities. There is more information on his Facebook page.

Sam left plenty of time for questions and explained that it takes up to four years to train a horse in the basic dressage moves. The rider will use subtle movements that take advantage of the natural sensitivity of the horse, to develop the skills. The addition of music takes the process to a different level.

We were all left with a much greater

appreciation of the sport and the skill it requires, along with a recognition of Sam's passion for all things equine.

While consuming our tea and coffee many conversations centred around whether we should arrange a WI riding session!

Our coffee morning this month will take place on Friday, September 16 at 10.30am in Linda Vincent's house in Ogmere-by-Sea, when we look forward to seeing as many members as possible.

The next meeting is on Thursday, October 13 at 7.15pm in the church hall, Southerndown Road in St Bride's Major. New members are always welcome.

PM

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.bridgend-today.co.uk
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk



Jamie's winning design

Jamie, 8, wins a national design competition



The moment Jamie Spear discovered he was the winner.

JAMIE SPEAR (8), from Barry, has won a place in a design team for Brecon Carreg Mineral Water.

He joins five other schoolchildren, all of whom will have their designs featured on special bottles.

Jamie, from Jenner Park Primary School, came up with a novel idea for an old water bottle: a rain catcher.

Budding designers were asked to submit ideas for a revamped label for its 300ml bottles, and for each entry received Brecon Carreg made a

donation to the charity Follow Your Dreams, which helps children with disabilities to follow their dreams.

The competition received hundreds of entries and, after an intensive judging process, the panel decided that the quality of entries was so high that they created three additional finalists.

Designs included fun facts about water, jokes and ways to re-use your bottles.

The new design is available for purchase from Tesco this month.

Louise takes Welsh crisps to Oslo seminar

ONE local Young Farmers member will soon be representing the whole of Wales as she jets off to Norway this October.

Glamorgan Young Farmers Club member Louise Evans is travelling to Norway as an ambassador for Wales at the annual Rural Youth Europe autumn seminar.

The event, which lasts a week, offers young farmers from across Europe the opportunity to learn about different cultures and traditions, as well as share their own.

On her trip to Oslo, Norway's capital, Louise will be supported by Welsh crisp manufacturers Jones Crisps, who use only Welsh potatoes and ingredients to produce crisps at their Gwynedd base.

She has also received the backing of Welsh MEP Dr Kay Swinburne who has supplied her with Welsh dragon soft toy souvenirs and information about Welsh farming for the rest of the international visitors to Norway.

Louise said: "I am thrilled to have received such an array of produce. The crisps will go down a storm!"

"A big thank you to Jones Crisps. I am a proud YFC member and I am going to make sure that Wales is recognised as being the best country at this year's event."

This year's seminar has been given the topic 'Think, Love, Move, Do' and aims to identify social inclusion, raise awareness and challenge people's mindsets.



Louise Evans of Maendy YFC.

The meaty topic will certainly raise some questions, especially with the changes in YFC and keeping it current and relevant for members.

Louise Evans (24), who is an active member of Maendy Young Farmers, believes that "the more you put into YFC, the more you get out."

She said: "I am very lucky to have been selected to attend Norway. I am really looking forward to taking part in the seminar and hopefully see the Norwegian landscape, as well as teach others about Wales."

Bridgend Bridge Club's wine for the winner!



Bridgend Bridge Club's summer competition was won this year by Dave Lea (pictured above, right) being congratulated by Steve Burgoyne, the club secretary, and handed a bottle of wine!

Expressions of interest



ST LYTHANS PARK, CULVERHOUSE CROSS

United Welsh Housing Association, with the Vale of Glamorgan Council announce the new development at St Lythans Park, Culverhouse Cross.

Expressions of interest are invited from Homes4u members. Properties are due to complete in November/December 2016 and a local lettings policy applies to this scheme.

- One, two-bedroom house
Rent £99.61 per week (service charge to be confirmed)
- Two, three-bedroom houses
Rent £101.26 per week (service charge to be confirmed)
- One, four-bedroom house
Rent £120.30 per week (service charge to be confirmed)
- Four, one-bedroom flats (two ground and two first floor)
Rent £78.64 per week (service charge to be confirmed)



CROMPTON WAY, OGMORE BY SEA

United Welsh Housing Association, with the Vale of Glamorgan Council announce the new development at Crompton Way, Ogmore by Sea.

Expressions of interest are invited from Homes4U members. The property is due to complete in October/November 2016.

A local lettings policy applies to this scheme.

- One, two-bedroom house
Rent £101.82 per week.



BADGERS BROOK, YSTRADOWEN

United Welsh Housing Association, with the Vale of Glamorgan Council announce the new development at Badgers Brook, Ystradowen.

Expressions of interest are invited from Homes4U members. Properties are due to complete in November 2016 and a local lettings policy applies to this scheme.

- Two, one-bedroom flats (one ground and one first floor)
Rent £78.64 per week (service charge to be confirmed)



To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or apply in writing to: Vale of Glamorgan Council Environment and Housing Civic Offices Holt Road, Barry CF63 4RU

Benthyciadau di-log ar gyfer adnewyddu tai Interest free housing loans



Mae Cyngor Bro Morgannwg ar y cyd â Llywodraeth Cymru wrthi'n darparu benthyciadau di-log ar hyd a lled y Fro. Cynigir y benthyciadau hyn er mwyn helpu perchnogion i baratoi tai gwag ar gyfer eu defnyddio unwaith eto, a thrwsio'r hyn sy'n angenrheidiol mewn tai cyfannedd.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council in partnership with Welsh Government is providing interest-free loans across the Vale of Glamorgan. Loans are available to assist owners to bring empty properties back into use and to assist with essential repairs for occupied properties.

Pwy a gaiff ymgeisio?

- Perchnogion preswyl
- Landlordiaid
- Datblygwyr eiddo
- Busnesau

Who can apply?

- Owner occupiers
- Landlords
- Property developers
- Businesses

Pa waith sy'n gymwys?

- Unrhyw drwsio angenrheidiol y bydd perchnogion preswyl a landlordiaid yn ei wneud er mwyn cynnal eu heiddo e.e. atal llethder, trwsio offer trydanol, gosod systemau gwres canolog, ailosod ffenestri a drysau.
- Adnewyddu hen eiddo ar gyfer ei defnyddio unwaith eto. (Cofiwch ei bod yn rhaid i'ch eiddo fod yn wag am o leiaf 6 mis cyn y cewch ymgeisio).
- Troi hen dŷ neu adeilad masnachol yn un neu ragor o unedau preswyl.

What work is eligible?

- Owner occupiers and landlords carrying out essential repairs to their property e.g. work to remedy damp, repairs to electrics, central heating installations, replacement windows and doors.
- Renovation works on empty properties to bring them back into use.
- Conversion of an empty property or commercial building into one or more residential units.

Adran Adfywio a Chynllunio | For more information please contact:



www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/housingloans
neu neges i / Email housingloans@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Katie Matthews Gweinyddyd Benthyciadau / Loan Administrator
Adfywio a Chynllunio, Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Stryddfa'r Doc, Y Barri, CF63 4RT
Regeneration and Planning, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry, CF63 4RT

neu ffônio / Tel: 01446 704721

Ath hang on after last-minute drama

IN this the second match of the season Bridgend Athletic were to renew acquaintance with the home side Builth Wells who had been responsible for many a tough battle on "The Groe" in previous Division 1 encounters.

Saturday's game was to prove no different as a scrappy and hard-fought game led to a nail-biting finish for the small band of Athletic supporters making the longest away trip of the season.

The Ath were missing four of the forwards from the previous week's victory over Bonymaen. Nathan Holman and Sean Williams were unavailable and both Lewis Davies and Stuart Edbrooke had suffered injuries that forced both to withdraw at the 11th hour as well as making a couple of changes in the backs too.

In bright, dry sunny conditions the Bulls surged at the Athletic line through a lively pack and battering-ram centre Stephen Boore. They soon forced a penalty which full-back Dale Jones slotted over and immediately returned to the attack.

Again forcing a penalty infringement, they kicked to touch and attempted to drive over from the lineout but sterling aggressive defence held them out and the visitors turned the ball over.

A breakout to halfway forced Builth to infringe and this time the Athletic went to the lineout.

When the drive was stopped the ball was quickly recycled to fly-half Scott Govan whose neat half-break and inside pass to Michael Hathaway allowed the centre to force his way over for a try converted by Govan, giving the Athletic the lead somewhat against the run of play.

The Athletic were on top at the scrum with Matt Muir and Zach Evans supporting young hooker Cameron Thomas but the lineout play of both sides left a lot to be

desired.

It was lost lineout ball when attacking that allowed Builth to surge up field once more and the Athletic had a narrow escape when Jones hit the post with a long range effort. A dominant defensive scrum and two successive penalties regained a foothold in home territory and just after Govan pushed a kick wide a strong run by Zach Evans led to another penalty this time from closer range. Govan stretched the lead to seven points.

The game was littered with penalties and free kicks as ill-discipline gave referee Brian Powell. Eventually it was Bridgend's No. 8 Rory Thomas that crossed the line once too often and was shown a yellow card six minutes before half-time. This revitalised Builth and they pounded at the Athletic's line for the remainder of the half without reward.

The second period followed a pattern similar to the first with the Athletic looking to play a more expansive game but being hampered by some uncharacteristically poor decision making and poor execution of passes and with Builth relying on a driving game when in possession and a harrying spoiling style in defence.

This mish-mash produced a game that was bitty and very stop-start throughout.

Young scrum-half Dan James had few opportunities to shine and threequarters Hathaway, Garin Lougher, Rhys Jones and Chris Walker found very little space to run into and even the elusive Dan Howells at full back found space at a premium.

The Athletic did themselves no favours when Hathaway was shown Yellow not two minutes after Thomas returned from his enforced break as Builth continued to drive their way up the pitch.

Eventually pressure told and the home team scored a try through their powerful captain,

flanker Wayne Morris.

Despite the dogged efforts of veteran second rows Griff Davies and John Stoker and young flanker Scott Griffith the Bulls continued to make inroads until a swift turnover allowed the Ath to spread the ball wide to Chris Walker. When challenged the wing kicked ahead and hacked past the defence to score a fine individual try. The conversion was missed.

Thomas and Howells both left the field injured to be replaced by Harry Griffiths and Youth player Luke Bevan and with home centre Bloore in the sin-bin the Athletic gained a period of ascendancy as they were driven on by new captain Ben Howe.

Again mistakes proved costly when Builth kicked to the corner and sent 12 players into the ruck for acting fly-half Ben Pugh to gain a touchdown that also went unconverted.

As time was running out and with both teams back to 15 but Builth having to opt for passive scrums due to front row injuries, Govan's long range penalty fell short but was fumbled giving the visitors a scrum five metres away from the home line.

Unable to use their dominance in this facet the ball was driven from the back but eventually a penalty was given away. Builth surged forward and forced another penalty and then another allowing wing Kyle Baggett the opportunity to win the game for the Bulls.

Luckily for the Athletic his kick was wide and they had hung on for their second win of the season.

Despite the result team coach John Apsee was quick to recognise that his team needs to show more composure on the ball and less ill-discipline in defence if they are to continue to progress in this league and to their credit the players were quick to recognise it too.

This Saturday Bridgend Athletic entertain Cwmllwynfell at Newbridge Fields, kick-off 2.30pm.

MD

SPORTS UNDER-11s IMPRESS

BRIDGEND Sports under-11s hosted Brynccethin in their first home game of the season on Sunday.

In perfect conditions, Brynccethin started the game with the drop out, Bridgend Sports retained possession and this became a feature of the first half as the Blue and Whites dominated both possession and territory. Brynccethin to their credit kept the Sports from scoring for long periods but the pressure eventually told ten minutes into the half.

Iestyn John secured the first score for the Sports when the ball was moved wide after Mackenzie Dent made good ground. Cian John converted.

The lead was extended further, as the Sports sustained the pressure through some narrow attacks. Chloe Gant skilfully assisted play from scrum half before the ball was moved along the line to Richard Kirkup, who placed the ball after being tackled.

The ball was passed back along the line in the

direction of the opposite touchline with Callum Lewis, Cian John and Harri Edmunds all involved.

An infringement at a ruck secured a penalty which was moved to Megan Lewis who knew the way to the line, and Cian John converted her try to take the lead to 14-0.

Joel Rogers scored the third try as he used his blistering pace down the wing and then moments before half-time Tom Chick on the opposite wing followed suit with a similar try for the Sports' fourth of the game, which was started with a Bailey Llewellyn Hopkins run and pass inside to supporting players.

A valiant Brynccethin team rallied themselves early in the second half. They showed great spirit and resolve in the tackle and ruck area to frustrate the home team for a period with Robson Bell, Lewis Bickerton and TJ Edwards all to the fore.

They mounted several attacks themselves, but failed to penetrate the solid Sports defence who with the sun now on their backs started to secure turnover ball at the ruck

area. From a Mason Balmer run and further ruck, the ball was moved to outside half Cian John, he spotted space to run in for a try to extend the lead. Harri Williams converted.

Cadan Hayes made all the running for the next try as he switched play, he was initially held up but saw the line and used his strength to claim the try.

Speedster Joel Rogers grabbed his second of the game, receiving the ball in the centre position; he stepped on the gas to outstrip his opponents to extend the lead. Mackenzie Dent scored next from a tap penalty he used his strength to charge to the line.

The best try of the game was saved until last, when, from the restart, the Sports secured possession, Megan Lewis made ground then passed to Tom Coles.

He set Mackenzie Dent on a run before he popped the ball to Meg Lewis then onto Joel Rogers, who passed to Cian John; he sidestepped a defender

then passed to Dylan Morgan who did brilliantly to take the pass.

He regained his balance, looked up, and then beat the last defender to score. Harri Edmunds added the conversion for the final score of the game.

All squad members secured game time as players swapped sides to support the greater need for the game.

This week the Sports join a number of sides from the area as they take part in the Clive Evans Memorial Rugby Tournament at Maesteg Celtic.

Squad: Bailey Llewellyn Hopkins; Ben King; Cadan Hayes; Callum Lewis; Chloe Gant, Cian John; Dewi Worrall; Dylan Morgan; Harri Edmunds; Harri Williams; Iestyn John; Ieuan Pilliner; Jodie Keane; Joel Rogers; Mackenzie Dent; Mason Balmer; Megan Lewis; Morgan Edwards; Richard Kirkup; Thomas Chick; Thomas Coles and Tyler Burton.

SP

UNDER-16S WELCOME NEW KIT FROM SPONSORS



DUNRAVEN Windows and Braceys Builders Merchants have kindly sponsored Kenfig Hill under-16s so they could have a new full kit this season, their final one as a junior rugby team.

This is the sixth time in 10 years the companies have been so generous; Dunraven also sponsor the first team kit and have done for many years.

Matthew Brace, director of Dunraven Windows, said: "I wish Kenfig Hill under-16s a very successful

season. We are proud to be associated with Kenfig Hill RFC and their mini and junior teams."

The boys are so pleased with their new kit and would like to thank Matthew, who is also their coach and has been since they were six years old. They would like to thank Matthew for all his hard work and dedication to their team!

The boys are heading to jersey on tour in April 2017.

EB

Pencoed RFC hold out for a hard-fought win

PENCOED travelled to the Amman Valley expecting a stern test as always in this Division 2 West Central match against Brynamman, and that is how things materialized, the match still in the balance going into the final phases.

Things started badly for Pencoed with the loss of industrious loose head prop forward James Tredray in the second minute with both shoulder and ankle injuries.

Soon after Adam Williams opened Pencoed's account with a penalty goal and within minutes home full back Chris Moore levelled matters from the tee.

Despite the early loss of Tredray the Pencoed front row of Keiron Moore, hooker Tom Drew, and young replacement prop Brandon Nelson were dominant in the early sets.

It was the home side however who took the lead, turning defence into attack with a 70 metre counter through the pace of Moore and remarkably second row Daniel Page was on hand to claim the touchdown.

Pencoed soon hit back, initially at a set scrum which destroyed the home eight and good hands saw centre Rhys Thomas racing in from 35 metres swerving around the final defender to score at the posts; Williams added the extras and Pencoed led 8-10.

Moore and Williams then swapped penalties and Pencoed led 11-13

at the interval.

Pencoed opened the second half strongly dominating the opening 15 minutes, both full back Tom Cross and right wing Ryan Russell going close.

Driving play from No 8 Gareth Prentice and second row Dano Howells kept Pencoed on the front foot but at this juncture Pencoed were unable to turn their sustained pressure into points.

The dangerous Moore broke and Pencoed did well to regroup around the halfway line before creating a superb score, Prentice and scrum half Barrett combining from a scrummage for the supporting Cross to release Russell with a well-timed pass and the young wing took his chance from 40 metres out to race away before leaving the lone

defender for dead with a change of pace to dive over at the corner flag, Williams adding a fine conversion.

Williams then kicked a further penalty from wide out and Pencoed led 11-23. The home side then kept themselves in contention, a somewhat contentious penalty try awarded them and Moore's conversion brought Brynamman back into the match at 18-23.

The home side continued on the attack deep in the Pencoed 22 and the away support became increasingly anxious as their team picked up a yellow card in desperate defence in the final minutes.

Brynamman pounded the Pencoed line in their search for victory, however a superb committed defence kept the home side at bay,

before No 8 Prentice broke from his own line, shrugging off several would-be tacklers, to make ground to the 22 and Pencoed swept play the length of the field and forceful driving play in the home 22 from Howells, and Moore saw young prop forward Nelson crash over to seal the match.

Williams' conversion added the coup de grace to wrap up a superb Pencoed effort. In what was essentially a team effort the Pencoed man of the match accolade went to Dano Howells.

On Saturday, Pencoed travel to Morriston for a 2.30pm kick off.

TR

Bridgend Bridge Club LATEST RESULTS

THE results for recent events Bridgend Bridge Club are:

Wednesday, September 7: Welsh Simultaneous Pairs: First, Marjorie Morris and Wendy Williams; Second, Laura Woodruff and Mike Close; Third, Julian Pottage and Tony Radcliffe. The winners on handicap were Marjorie Morris and Wendy Williams.

Thursday, September 8: First, Eileen Mahoney and Stuart Davies; Second, Maggie Ashpole and David Newman; Third, Margaret Roach and Steve Burgoyne. The winners on handicap were Maggie Ashpole and David Newman.

Friday, September 9: First, Graham Jones and Irene Thomas; Second, Colin and Hazel Heard; Third, John Henson and Terry Dolan. The winners on handicap were Graham Jones and Irene Thomas.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7pm at Nolton Church Hall; it helps if people could arrive at least 10 minutes

early. On Thursday afternoons also at Nolton Church Hall there are gentle Bridge sessions commence at 2pm when advice is readily available on bidding.

BEGINNERS' BRIDGE LESSONS Following the success of this year's lessons there is a course starting on Thursday mornings at 11.30am at Nolton Church Hall.

These are suitable both complete beginners and for those who have played either whist or bridge in the past and want to start playing again to further their knowledge of this fascinating game.

For further information about this friendly club and its activities please contact Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661958, John Evans on 01656 880372 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

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Family Notices

JORDAN Rowland John

Peacefully at the University Hospital of Wales Cardiff on September 5, Rowland (Rowly) of Castle Street, Barry. Dearly beloved husband of Peggy, much loved father of the late Linda, loving grandad of Ceri.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until his funeral service in the chapel on Friday, September 23 at 2pm, followed by cremation at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 3pm. Family flowers only but donations in lieu of flowers to the coastguard. Black attire optional.

LEES

Myrna Ruth

Peacefully on Tuesday, September 6, after her long illness. Myrna, beloved wife of Brian, loving mother of Julia and Rob, sister of Alison. Cherished daughter of the late Lal and Len Keeley.

Myrna will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Tuesday, September 20 at 12pm. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support Marie Curie & Crohn's and Colitis UK in memory of Myrna.

Further enquiries contact Lyndsay Ellis, 01446 407962.

MILES

Christine Margaret (Née Browning)

Suddenly on September 7, Christine of Llantwit Major (formerly of Cardiff). Dearly loved wife of Michael and a much loved mother to Catherine and Ceri, and a loving nanna of Josh, Dylan, Celyn and Rhian.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Friday, September 23 in Coychurch Crematorium at 1.45pm. Immediate family flowers only but donations may be made to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o the Funeral Home.

PEMBRIDGE

Violet

Peacefully on September 9 at Holme Towers Hospice, Penarth, Violet of Rhose, beloved wife of the late Desmond. Devoted mother of Brian, dear mother-in-law to Jacqueline, much loved grandmother and great grandmother.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Wednesday, September 21, service and cremation 1pm at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. No flowers by request, donations if desired to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhose, CF62 3DZ.

PRITCHARD

Dorothy Marjorie (Dot)

Dot sadly passed away on September 7 at Milsom House Nursing Home, St Athan. Much loved mum of Annette and Andrew, loved mother-in-law to Rob and Sue, loving nan to all her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday, September 26, service 12 noon at Porthkerry Church, followed by cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 1pm.

EVANS

Hilda Mary

Peacefully on September 8, Hilda, loving wife of the late Richard Rowland. Much loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother, will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Tuesday, September 20 at 1.15pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu to Alzheimer's Research UK, Suit 1, Ground Floor, North Court, David Street, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend, CF31 3TP.

GILES

Robert Whyman

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Robert, at Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth on September 5. A much loved brother to Sue, Jen and the late Russell. Beloved son of the late Betty and Bob.

Robert will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service and committal at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Thursday, September 22 at 4pm. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support Marie Curie in memory of Robert. The family request informal clothing be worn. Further enquiries contact Lyndsay Ellis - 01446 407962.

McDONALD Gwynyth (Gwyn)

Peacefully on September 2 at Bella Vista Nursing Home, Barry, Gwynyth (Gwyn), aged 94 years, previously of Aneurin Road, Barry. Beloved wife of the late Hugh. A loved mother of Ian, Lynn, and the late Hugh, mother-in-law of Gail and Ann. Cherished grandmother, great grandmother, and great great grandmother.

Gwyn will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral on Monday, September 19. Service in the chapel at 12 noon, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry. Family flowers only, if desired donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Holme Towers, Bridgeman Road, Penarth.

VENNERS

Peter

Peacefully on Sunday, 11 September, Peter beloved husband of Jean. Dearly loved father of Stephen and Jonathan, father-in-law to Ceri and Karen. Adored bamps to Jodie and Jade, brother to Tom and uncle to his nieces. Loved and respected by Chris and Gaynor. Peter was loved and admired by Ann, Lloyd, Rachel, Louie, Alfie, Jayne and John.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until a celebration of Peter's life at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Wednesday, September 21 at 2pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired, may be made at the service to support Marie Curie for the highly professional care given to Peter over the last six weeks.

The family request colourful attire be worn. Further enquiries contact Lyndsay Ellis - 01446 407962.

Acknowledgements

VERNON Colin William

(16 February 1942)

Peacefully in his sleep, Colin passed away at Llandough Hospital on September 1, 2016, aged 74 years.

Colin's wish to donate his body to medical research has been fully carried out. Colin will be sadly missed by friends and family. God bless you xxx

THOMAS

Alan

10/10/1933 - 21/08/2016

Thank you to all our wonderful friends and family who came to celebrate the life of our beloved Alan. Every little act of kindness we have shown us in the past few months has resonated in our hearts, bringing love and light to brighten our darkest days and fill our hearts with hope.

To Reverend Peter Taylor, thank you for conducting the funeral service with such warmth, dignity and love.

To Gareth and the wonderful Barry Male Voice Choir, your beautiful voices create music that soothes the mind and heals the heart, sincere gratitude to all who came.

Lyndsay Ellis of Vale Funeral Service - Thank you so much for everything you have done for us, we are truly grateful for your integrity, sincerity, professionalism and kindness.

Much love, Denise, Aldene and Neale xxx

Thank You

THANK YOU

Thank you Cathy for coming with me to all hospital appointments prior to the operation. Thank you to my friends for all their get well cards and phone calls, flowers, Welsh cakes, fruit tarts, Top Stack quiche and scones, and, last but not least, a large fruit cake from Julie. Thank you also to Jean who has moved in and helped me so much since I've come home. Only one more hurdle to go. See you all soon. PEGGY LONG

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Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Birthdays

Happy 80th Birthday to my Great Grandma Betty Lewis on 17th September With lots of love Ella Rhian P.S. I am nearly one now xxx

LUCAS EDWARDS
Happy 18th Birthday on the 17th September
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ATODLEN

| COLOFN 1 | COLOFN 2 | COLOFN 3 |
|--------------------------|--|------------------|
| Dydd Sul 25 Medi 2016 | The Esplanade, Cliff Hill a Cliff Road ar eu hyd, Bydd gwyriadau rhwng 7.00am a 5.00pm ar hyd Bridgeman Road a Marine Parade. | 07.00am i 5.00pm |

Bydd Arwyddion i'r Gwyriad yn cael eu gosod **Dyddiedig 15 o Fedi 2016**

M. E. Punter
Cyfarwyddwr yr Amgylchedd a Thai
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
The Alps, Gwenfô
CF5 6AA



THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMANS RIDE
PENARTH
SUNDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an order under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

WHEREAS during certain hours of the day and date specified in column 1 of Schedule 1 hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedule will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 do HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to watch the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulation shall be observed:-
THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof shall be closed to all vehicular traffic including pedal cycles with the exception of all Emergency Services Vehicles (including called out lifeboat crew), and Designated Event Vehicles, between the hours specified in column 3 of the said schedule. The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00.

SCHEDULE

| COLUMN 1 | COLUMN 2 | COLUMN 3 |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Sunday 25th September 2016 | The Esplanade, Cliff Hill and Cliff Road throughout their lengths, Divisions between 7.00am and 5.00pm will be via Bridgeman Road and Marine Parade. | 07.00am to 5.00pm |

Local Signed Diversions shall be in place **Dated this 15th day of September 2016**

M. E. Punter,
Director of Environment & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council
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Lifeguards ready to compete with the best of the best!



FOLLOWING a successful summer season, Llantwit Major Surf Boat Team head to Biarritz on September 14 to compete against teams from across the UK, Europe, New Zealand and Australia in Infinite Ocean 2016.

Biarritz, on the French Basque coast, is a renowned surf spot with ferocious waves breaking onto a steep beach, promising exciting racing for the spectators and elevated stress levels for the competitors!

The racing will take place over three days with an Inter-Nations event first, where the Llantwit team will be representing Wales, followed by two days of racing in The Open and Masters events. The racing will be covered each day by a French TV news station.

The men's squad racing in France is Mike Lord, Gethin Edwards, Ross Fraser, Josh Edwards, Mathew Rowlands, Ben Thomas and Matthew Wright.

Each member of the squad is a qualified beach lifeguard and along with the other members of Llantwit Major Lifeguard Club. They give of their spare time to carry out voluntary patrols at Llantwit beach during the summer months.

The calibre of the opposition drawn from around the world will be very high, which includes former Olympic

Cavaliers share their thanks for season's efforts

THE Llantwit Major Cavaliers would very much like to thank our groundsman Gareth and all who have helped him prepare the cricket pitches and to The GEM who have published the clubs match reports throughout the season.

Sincere thanks to Julie Cheal who has once again done us proud with the teas this year and to Rhian Griffiths, Scott and Linda Buckley who did the teas in Julie's absence.

Special thanks to David Snelson, for all his time and effort, for all aspects of coaching the under-9s and under-11s and the school visits which had borne fruit for the youth section within the club.

David also put a lot of time and effort in proactive support of the Cavaliers' first XI with regards to coaching practice, preparation of the match day pitch and scoring.

The Cavs would also like to thank former club skipper, James Snelson, for all his hard work and dedication in his five years as first XI captain.

James will be seen as one of the most successful in our recent history with back to back championship wins in 2014 and 2015 and along with former second XI captain Shane Callard worked tirelessly in support of the club and their efforts were greatly appreciated by all club members.

The 2016 first XI captain Harry Withers and second XI captain

Scott Buckley had big shoes to fill this year and both taken up the reins well and have had successful summers and we thank them both for their efforts.

Sunday XI captain Nigel Allison and midweek XI captain Julian Griffiths continue to run their respective teams with Julian helping and supporting the other team captains and successfully managing other projects within the club.

Thanks also to Stu Davies who managed the provision of new kit in 2016 and has provided the club with new apps to support the club's progression and to Mark Coldwell and Anne Pickford for scoring in the first XI games.

The Cavs look forward to playing in the SWCA second and sixth divisions in 2017 and have nothing to fear; if both teams can have good availability and play with the same enthusiasm and skills as the first XI finished the 2016 season then they will be hard teams to beat and could be candidates for promotion.

The Cavs would like to thank match ball sponsors Roz Couzens, Anthony Brown Estate Agents, Chiropractor Roz Couzens, Cooperative Travel, Llantwit Major Autocentre, Oxford Lawns and Gardens, Simons Plaipe, Sinclair Direct and Wave Design to Print for their much appreciated sponsorship of the club.

DMC

Cowbridge pupils to surf for Wales

CIERAN HUGHES (year-12) and Ffion Hughes (year-10) have been selected in the Welsh Team selection for ISA World Junior Championships.

They will surf in The Azores in September.

Cieran has performed well at competitions this year and achieved great results. He has also trained well during squad sessions.

Cowbridge Comprehensive School is delighted that he has been asked to be team captain for the trip.

Ffion has performed really well in

competitions this year too, and has achieved amazing results. She is one of only two girls in the team and will be competing in the under-16 category.

The school is extremely proud of Ffion.

The team are scheduled to travel there this week.

Cieran and Ffion also competed in the British School Championships in Bude. They were the only two representing Cowbridge Comprehensive School and both had great results; Cieran came away with third in the under-18 boys and Ffion won the under-14 girls. Well done!

DC

VALE TRAINERS ARE IN GOOD FORM

VALE trainers Tim Vaughan and Evan Williams won the first three races between them at Worcester on Monday.

Tim took the first two races winning both divisions of the handicap chase with *Caspian Piper* and former Welsh

point-to-pointer *Mad Money* and Williams landed the Beginners chase with *Roadie Joe*.

Caspian Piper ridden by Alan Johns, a 9-2 shot, finished one-and-three quarter lengths ahead of *King's Song* and *Mad Money*, partnered by champion jockey Richard Johnson, who was joint favourite at 5-2,

BRIAN LEE

Cowbridge under-14s start with a victory



TO kickstart the new season, the Cowbridge under-14s entertained Llanishen at the Police Fields on a warm and sunny, Sunday morning.

The Cowbridge coaches have been working hard with the squad throughout most of the summer, looking to build on the improved play at the end of last season, and the much talked about Toulon tour.

With a squad of close to thirty, very keen players, there was plenty of strength in depth, with a host of choice players for the coaches to experiment with, in terms of positional play.

Cowbridge set off at pace, with a forceful pack, driving Llanishen off the ball at every scrum and dominating the mauls, shortly leading to a well deserved try by David Harris at No. 8.

Cowbridge did well in their lineouts also. The Llanishen backs looked to play a fast running game, and were quick to close down any attacks by Cowbridge.

A change in tactic, a deft chip ahead by Harry



Whit at No. 10, saw the pacy Jakob Thiesen rush through the turning defence to gather the ball and score close to the posts.

Further pressure saw Kofi Jones playing his first game at full back, enter the line at pace, cut through the defence and score an excellent individual try, which was well converted by Harry Whit to make it 17-0 at half-time.

Up hill in the second half, and in very warm conditions, both sides were wilting, good play from Llanishen saw them score two tries in the second half, with Cowbridge defending their reduced lead for a rather tense, frantic final

10 minutes.

Clever use of the substitutes brought on fresh legs and David Avery, playing his first game for Cowbridge burst through four tacklers with a powerful run, which ended up with a further well worked attack through the back, narrowly missing out on a fourth try, by desperate last gasp tackling by the Llanishen defenders.

The final whistle was welcomed by the players and home fans alike, with a well secured and hard fought win for Cowbridge. The coaches will look to build on this performance through the forthcoming season.

TD

Comprehensive win for under-16s

COWBRIDGE RFC under-16s got their season off to a fantastic start with a comprehensive 45-10 victory against a powerful Ystrad Rhondda under-16s.

Cowbridge went behind to an early Ystrad try, but the boys showed their maturity by sticking to their game plan and kept playing their own game. Cowbridge responded quickly to falling behind with a well worked forwards try.

Just inside the Ystrad 22, Iestyn Fenn made a burst through the middle of the Ystrad pack.

Before going to ground Fenn off loaded the ball to Ben Jones the Cowbridge open-side flanker to level the scores. Ioan Williams converted.

Shortly afterwards Jones increased the Cowbridge lead with an individual try.

With the Ystrad defence transfixed on Reuben Williams in mid-field, Jones took the opportunity to go through a gap in the Ystrad defence. Showing good composure

Jones then side stepped one and then another to cross the try line. Ioan Williams converted.

As the game entered the final stages of the first half Ystrad were camped inside the Cowbridge 22.

Ystrad were awarded a penalty on the Cowbridge line. Rather than take the three points, Ystrad went for the lineout.

At the lineout the Ystrad hooker over-threw the ball, allowing Reuben Williams to get his boot on the ball.

Harry Ridge was the first man to the bouncing ball.

Ridge off loaded to Jack Dixon who outpaced the Ystrad defence for a length of the field break away try. The half-time score was Cowbridge 21, Ystrad Rhondda 5.

Cowbridge started the second half as they finished the first, with a brilliant break away Dixon try.

From deep inside their own 22, Cowbridge turned defence into attack. Jack Little burst out of defence and made excellent ground up to the half way line.

Reuben Williams, now

playing in the unfamiliar position of inside centre, picked up the ball and offloaded just as the Ystrad defence were about to pounce.

Dixon sped off to score his second, and Cowbridge's fourth try of the game. Ioan Williams converted.

Ystrad began to get more and more frustrated and unfortunately one of their forwards took out his frustration on Harry Ridge.

The referee was left with no option but to send him off. Down to 14 boys Ystrad were now up against a confident Cowbridge team.

From the next scrum, Ioan Williams fed his ten, Evan Thomas who with his customary great pass off his left put Reuben Williams into space again.

Williams made great ground entering the Ystrad 22, only to offload to his name sake I. Williams to scamper in for Cowbridge's fifth try of the game.

With the Ystrad defence now stretched, and their larger pack beginning to struggle with the expansive Cowbridge back play, more tries were

inevitable.

From a line break down the blindside Cowbridge managed to get themselves into the Ystrad 22. Evan Thomas displayed great vision by executing a cross field kick to perfection to allow Morgan John a simple try.

To be fair to the 14 boys of Ystrad they did not let their heads drop, and gained a consolation try following a number of tap penalties deep inside the Cowbridge 22.

The last score of the game came from Cowbridge. The forwards kept the ball tight and burst through the middle of the Ystrad defence.

With the Ystrad defence scrambling Ioan Williams made a tremendous dummy to score un-opposed. Williams converted his own try to make the final score Cowbridge 45, Ystrad Rhondda 10.

Tries: Jones (2), Dixon (2), Ioan Williams (2), John; Ioan Williams (five conversions).

GJ

THE BOWMEN ARE ON TARGET IN THE VALE



WE are used to seeing pictures of people participating in bowls, rugby, cricket, darts, etc, but rarely do we hear anything about archery.

There are quite a few clubs in the Vale, but ours is the only one in Barry. We are called Caerau Dragon Bowmen and our name, despite being a Barry club, came about from the origins of the people who founded our club back in 2008.

We are a friendly, family-oriented group but we do have a few members who take part in local and national competitions.

Just recently we organised our first inter-club shoot between our club, Celyn Archers from Cardiff and Archers of Underwood from Carleone.

Our coach, Simon, has just recently completed a level 2 coaching course. We have the use of St Richard Gwyn RC High School, Barry and have just finished the outdoor season on their excellent playing fields where we could shoot at distances of up to 90 metres.

We have now moved indoors where we will be limited to shooting at a distance of 18 metres until the evening light becomes more amenable.

We have a beginners course starting on September 27 and for more information email gina.burton@me.com.

Pictured are some of our members wearing our new club colours.

GB

Dinas Wolves show their bite!

THE first away game of the season saw Dinas Powys Wolves travel to the furthest point in the Vale as they looked to continue their fine start.

After having missed the summer and a lot of preseason, the villagers were happy to see Callum Hewitson back into the squad following a massive knee operation in May.

Cowbridge showed some great defending early on as Dinas struggled to find the breakthrough.

In 20 minutes though, Hewitson had other ideas, being on the pitch seconds he slotted home at the back post.

Jake Lewis moving into midfield added the second moments later with a fine half volley. Joe Doughty back from illness made it three as he smashed home an unstoppable volley from a Kyle Booker corner.

Rian Thomas then scored the fourth right on the break as he showed quality movement and outpaced the Cowbridge defence to finish from 15 yards.

The display from the visitors was as complete as you could wish as they moved the ball very well and showed they are a very talented bunch.

Connor O'Brien and Bayley Harewood linked up very well on the right creating plenty of chances. On the left, Harrison Kelly and Robson Mallam looked a true threat.

Kieran Quest showed the other side to his game as his galloping runs caused the home side to back pedal.

The second half instead of switching off, Dinas kept the tempo and style the same, as everyone

wanted to get on the ball.

Zac Fifield typified this more than anyone with a very senior-like display in the middle. Jacob Moss makes a welcome return following illness and school trips and looked as if he had never been away; strong in the tackle and showed very good composure on the ball.

Harewood, Booker and Thomas showed why speed is key to any team as they cut open the home side defence.

The back four with Jake Frost and Tylor Williams gave the team a great platform to play off.

Further goals from Rian Thomas and Callum Hewitson to complete their hat-tricks, and goals from Bayley Harewood, Robson Mallam and Kyle Booker gave the visitors a comfortable win.

Well done young Callum Hewitson – a dream comeback and man of the match display.

DINAS WOLVES 10, AFC RHOOSE 0
DINAS started very slowly with poor decision making early on.

Rhose battled very well throughout the opening 35 minutes, throwing bodies in the way and defending with a real purpose. On the break the visitors looked like they could snatch a goal.

Going in at half-time only two goals up the home side listened to the advice offered and came out a much better-looking team, moving the ball with speed and quality.

Goals from Kyle Booker, Bayley Harewood (2), Kieran Quest, Harrison Kelly, Conor Obrien, Robson Mallam, Joe Doughty, and Rian Thomas (2) saw the home side run out 10-0 winners.

LS

8 Ball pool finally comes to the Vale

A NEW 8 Ball pool league is about to be launched in the Vale.

We are looking for teams from Llantwit Major, Cowbridge, St Athan, Rhose, Barry, Sully and Penarth.

All games are to be played on a Thursday night, start time 8.15pm. The league is open to both men and women.

We are looking to establish a league in the Vale that plays by 8 Ball rules, otherwise known as county rules.

Our next objective is to start up a Vale county team to compete against

the other 47 county teams.

We know this area has enough talent locally to have a very good county side. After that, we hope to have players from the Vale league to go on and represent Wales.

We are looking for a sponsor or sponsors for the league and county team. Whether you are a team, pub, club or someone who would like to sponsor the league or county team, text Joe on 07870 498 738 or email him at valeofglamorganpoolleague@gmail.com.

JB

Be a sports coach

Do you know of training opportunities alongside the chance to coach. In return, as a coach of the future, successful candidates will be able to receive a range of benefits.

Anyone wishing to find out more can attend an information evening on September 20 between 5pm and 7pm at the Barry Docks Offices' boardroom, but must contact Rachel Shepherd of the Active Young People team on 01446 704808, or e-mail rlshepherd@valeofglamo

rgan.gov.uk to register their interest. The scheme is designed to give young people the opportunity to develop their interest in sports leadership and coaching, and provides a structured programme of

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In yellow and black, 1 owner, a/c, alloys etc
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In pure silver, 68,000 miles, over £2,500 of extras
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- 58 MERCEDES CLC 200 CDI Diesel Coupe Automatic** In Silver, heated leather seats etc with only 53,000 miles **£7,995**
- 64 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 3-Dr** In black, 27,000 miles, 1 owner **£7,495**
- 62 SUZUKI Swift Sport 1.6** In met-red, 24,000 miles, 1 owner, very sporty **£7,495**
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- 64 RENAULT Zoe Dynamique Intens 5-Dr Automatic** In white, 10,000 miles, 1 owner, electric hatch **REDUCED BY £500 TO £6,995**
- 62 SEAT Ibiza 1.2 TSi SE 5-Dr Automatic** In silver, only 13,000 miles **£6,995**
- 12 FORD Focus 1.6 Titanium 5-Dr** In silver, 70,000 miles, nice example **£6,995**
- 11 CITREON C4 VTR 1.6 HDI Automatic** In silver, 33,000 miles with panoramic roof **£6,995**
- 63 FIAT 500 1.2 S** In red, 21,000 miles, £30 road tax 1 owner, a/c, alloys etc **£6,795**
- 13 VAUXHALL Adam 1.4 Slam** In yellow and black, 1 owner, a/c, alloys etc **£6,795**
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- 64 FORD KA 1.2 Zetec** In white, 13,000 miles, one owner, a/c alloys etc **£5,995**
- 63 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Energy 3-Dr** In white, 20,000 miles, one owner **£5,995**
- 62 VAUXHALL Astra 1.7 CDTi Active 5-Dr** In graphite grey, 78,000 mile, diesel **£5,995**
- 60 SUZUKI SX4 1.6 Automatic SZ4** In met-grey, 24,000 miles with sat-nav **£5,995**
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GOLFING FARMERS HEAD OUT ON TOUR!

MEMBERS of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society spent three days last week exploring three Championship courses located in north Devon when competing over 54 holes for the David Evans (Agriculture) Ltd trophy.

The Royal North Devon golf club, founded in 1864 and claiming to be the oldest golf course in England, welcomed the members for the first day of competition with the two courses on the beautiful but demanding Saunton Sands welcoming the tourists for the final two days.

Results from day one - first Gareth Perkins with 29 stableford points followed by David Williams with 28 points. Nearest the pin on the par three holes were Gareth Perkins, David Williams and tour organiser Chris Rooney. Councillor Ray Thomas won the longest drive prize.

Results from day two, played on the East course at Saunton Sands - 1st Geraint Davies with 35 points and a better back nine than Martyn Edwards who also scored 35 points. Nearest the pin on the par three holes were Bryan Wadham and Keith James with Councillor Ray Thomas again collecting the longest drive prize.

The final round on day three played on the west course at Saunton Sands



resulted in Julian Golunski taking first place with 31 points followed by Chris Rooney with 26 points.

Nearest the pin on the par three holes were Gareth Perkins and Julian Golunski with Clive Thomas finally collecting a prize when hitting the longest drive on the selected hole.

After three absorbing rounds society captain Geraint Davies with an overall score of 83 points was declared the overall winner to collect the David Evans [Agriculture] Ltd trophy. Julian Golunski with 82 points finished runner-up and Gareth Perkins with 80 points finished third.

Also on tour but failing to make an impression on the leaderboard were Glyn Watts-Jones, Griff Morgan, Gwyn Thomas and Chris Watson.

Members are now focussing on their next monthly competition scheduled for Thursday, September 29, at the Rhondda Golf club that will be kindly sponsored by popular member Mr Dai John.

T.McC

Tim's in form!

TWENTY-FOUR hours after winning the Bet Fred 'Hat-Trick' Heaven Handicap Hurdle at Uttoxeter last Wednesday with *Dovils Date*, Aberthin's Tim Vaughan landed the Istadia Big Outdoor Screens Handicap one-and-a-half miles flat race at Chepstow with *Master Dancer*.

The former, ridden by local rider George Blackwell, went off the 15-8 favourite and won by nine lengths from *First Light* and the latter, partnered by Mitch Godwin was made the 11-4 favourite and scored by four lengths from *Fair Comment*.

STEVE'S NEAR MISS

At Lingfield Park last Saturday, the Vale's Steve Blackwell came close to landing the £7,500 H H Sheikh Fatima Bint Mubarak Apprentice Riders' World Championship Arabian horse race held over one mile.

His seven-year-old *Al Jawaaher*, ridden by Keith Moriarty, was beaten by just a neck by James Owens' *Emiraaty* in an exciting finish.

Steve, a former point-to-point rider of note, still had plenty to smile about as he picked up a cool £3,000 for finishing second.

BRIAN LEE

Vale of Glamorgan Football League round-up

IT was the first round of the Barry Cup this past weekend with SP Billy causing the upset of the round, as they dumped Premier Division Masons Moving Group out by beating them emphatically 5-2.

Premier Division pace setters Vale United continued their excellent form as they routed Tynewydd an incredible 7-0. In the other all Premier Division clash Rhosce recorded their first win of the season by knocking out Barry Athletic 5-3.

Cowbridge Town, Penarth Town and Island Marine avoided any sort of upset by defeating division one opposition.

Cowbridge and Cardiff Airport couldn't be separated, after 120 minutes it was 2-2 with Town going on to win the dreaded penalty shoot out 4-2.

Penarth were victorious 3-1 against local rivals Sully Sports and Island Marine defeated Dockers Reunited 2-1 to advance.

The pair of Division Two teams with 100 per cent record continued their tremendous form into the cup, Barry Saints edged out Barry Albion 3-2 while Cadoxton Imps produced a big cup upset when they eliminated Division One league leaders (coming into the weekend) FC Pumas 2-0.

The teams who received a first round bye

join the competition in the second round and the draw was made Saturday evening: Cadoxton Imps vs Island Marine, Cadoxton Barry FC vs Dinas Powys Athletic, Barry Saints vs Vale United, Glenbrook vs St Athan, Cowbridge Town vs Cogan Coronation, BV vs Barry Belgrade, Sp Billy vs AFC Rhosce, Cadoxton Athletic vs Penarth Town. Some intriguing ties, and they will be played on October 1.

There was some league action this week. In Division One Barry Belgrade thumped champions Cogan Coronation 3-0 and Cadoxton Athletic won the Caddy derby against Cadoxton Barry 5-2.

In Division Two BVFC made it two on the bounce as they won 3-0 away to St Athan B to go third.

FC Pumas B got off the mark with their first win of the season to leave AFC Rhosce B bottom of the league still searching for their first point.

This week sees some great games, with the picks of the week being Premier Division league leaders Vale United, and their 100 per cent record, travelling to Barry Athletic, second playing third as FC Pumas host unbeaten Barry Athletic B in Division One.

The game of the day may just be in Division Two, with at least one perfect record guaranteed to go, as Barry Saints and Cadoxton Imps collide.

HD

Hunt racing in mourning after death of Roger Lewis

HUNT-RACING enthusiasts in the Vale will be saddened to learn of the death of Roger Lewis, who was well known not only in point-to-point circles but in the racing world in general as he worked in hospitality at Chepstow, Bath and Hereford racecourses along with his wife June who like Roger was a leading point-to-point rider in the 1960s and '70s.

Roger was only 14 when he rode his first winner April Pennant at the Llangibby Hunt Steeplechases in 1959 and his last 20 years later at the same Howick, Chepstow track on Boundtobe in 1979.

He is survived by his widow June, son Guy and daughters Hannah



Roger Lewis with his wife June at Bath Races on his 72nd birthday.

and Zoe. St Athan's Jim Thomas, who rode around the same time as Roger said: "It is very sad. He was a great family friend and when he gave up race-riding he kept in touch with the sport taking on the roles of starter and steward and was instrumental in organising the annual south Wales point-to-point dinner dance and presentation evening."

Guy, a former National Hunt jockey of note, who is an official judge at many of the big race meetings, said: "Dad passed away last Tuesday afternoon surrounded by his family and we opened a bottle of Champagne to celebrate his life. He would have appreciated the gesture."

Coychurch's Gwyn Brace told me: "Roger loved all aspects of racing and back in 1985 was most enthusiastic in starting the annual presentation of awards

evening for owners and riders with Tim Rooney, Jim Thomas and myself.

"Spillers had given up their sponsorship so the whole of the south Wales was left in a limbo. I am sure you will remember the giving of the awards at the last meeting of the year, when nearly everyone had left the course and most recipients were absent. This started our South Wales Injured Jockeys Fund which over the last 31 years has seen many riders benefit from.

"During this period of time, Roger always put the maximum effort in raising funds which enabled it to keep going to the present day. He will be sorely missed."

Having known Roger and his wife June since I started reporting on the Welsh hunt racing scene some 50 years ago, I can say hand on heart that he always had time to talk and answer any questions that I had in a friendly manner.

BRIAN LEE

Atlantic College is to host XTERRA triathlon race



UWC Atlantic College

UWC Atlantic College near Llantwit Major has been announced as the venue for the first XTERRA triathlon race to take place in Wales since 2006, with proceeds funding vital scholarship places at the college.

The off-road triathlon series will take place on Saturday and Sunday, June 3-4 in the grounds of UWC Atlantic College.

Staff at the college will also set up a children's triathlon club for the wider community as part of the UWC Atlantic College's local outreach programme.

Events will include a range of races for children aged four to 16 and a 1.5km sea swim, followed by a 30km mountain bike ride and a 10km run for adults.

Helen Jenkins, the Vale's Olympic triathlete, said: "It is extremely exciting to see a fun, challenging incredible course in and

around the amazing grounds of UWC Atlantic College.

Using proceeds to fund scholarship places and help young people experience the sport for the first time makes it all the more worthwhile and commendable.

Anyone racing will walk away knowing they raced an amazing race in a unique location."

Gerry Holden, caretaker Principal at the college, added: "We are always looking for exciting events that bring our student body and wider community together - XTERRA certainly provides us that opportunity.

Helping talented learners with financial support is always a privilege, and we are determined to continue doing so through ground-breaking events such as these."

Barrivale Bridge Club results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for September 6:

=1st Mark Roderick & Peter Millar 60.42%; =1st Kay Dyer & Sean Macdougall 60.42%; 3rd Jenny Vaughan & Irene Thomas 57.81%. Kay Dyer and Sean Macdougall won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required.

If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Alternatively, players, inexperienced or new, may attend on Fridays at 10am at the same address.

DR

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Porthcawl are undone by Sports' injury time penalty



ABOVE: Tom Butcher is pursued by Bridgend Sports defenders, while LEFT: Joey Jones looks for space. PICTURES BY TRACEY WILLIAMS.

FC Porthcawl receive a bumper donation!

A newly-formed football team in Porthcawl has hit the back of the net with a bumper donation.

FC Porthcawl, which has just kicked off its first season in the Port Talbot League, has been handed a £1,000 donation by Persimmon Homes West Wales.

The club will use the funds to help pay for things like kit and pitch fees. And the club's players are also raising funds for toddler Ellie Roberts, the daughter of FC Porthcawl's Hywel Roberts, who has been diagnosed with a rare form of brain cancer.

The donation comes as part of Persimmon's Community Champions initiative. Each month the Swansea-based housebuilder donates £1,000

each to two charities or community groups in the West Wales area.

David Owen, fundraiser at FC Porthcawl, said: "We were over the moon when we heard about this fantastic donation."

"The team was formed to provide football for all within the Porthcawl area. Our members contribute to help pay for our fields, referees and winter training facilities but sponsorship is vital to our club's survival."

"We are also currently in the process of raising money in aid of a club member's daughter. Our hope is to raise funds to help out with any expense that the family might incur during her treatment."

"It's great to see a big company like Persimmon getting involved with grassroots sport."

M A T C H E S between Porthcawl RFC and Bridgend Sports never fail to excite, and Porthcawl's belated start to the season ended in narrow defeat when victory seemed in the bag.

Returning fly-half Josh White got the scoreboard moving with an early penalty from fully 47 metres, only for the Sports to cancel this out for 3-3 at half-time, with both teams having tried their best to create and play decent rugby.

The second spell couldn't have started better for Porthcawl, as following sustained pressure on the Sports backs, a hurried pass went astray and full-back Gareth Rees showed why he is the wrong person to throw a loose pass to, as he gleefully intercepted and sprinted unopposed to the line for a superb try, goaled by White and 10-3.

The Sports never lie down and indeed often make things difficult for opponents and anything Porthcawl could do, well so could they, as they levelled with a fine converted try under the posts, converted for a scoreline of 10-10.

With the match played

at a frenetic pace at times, with commitment total from both sides, it was always going to be nip and tuck and the match swung back the Seaweeds' way once more, as flying wing Joey Jones made the crucial break before feeding the supporting centre Tom Bluck, and his try, converted by White once more, again edged Porthcawl ahead as the game went into the final 10 minutes.

Predictably, back came the Sports as Porthcawl seemed to suddenly tire and their converted try to make it 17-17 made for an exciting finish.

With time ebbing closer to no-side, one last determined effort by the visitors saw Porthcawl concede a crucial penalty and two minutes into injury time, the Sports goaled the kick to snatch the spoils, ending the match at 17-20.

Most observers in both camps agreed that a draw would have been a truer reflection of the match, however it wasn't to be Porthcawl's day and the Sports joyously edged the result.

The Seaweeds now travel to Glyncoirwg on Saturday in search of a first win on the road this season.

PF



CELTIC HOLD OUT TO DENY TONDU



Action from the pulsating encounter between Maesteg Celtic and Tondy. PICTURES BY MIKE SULLY.



EARLY pressure from Tondy failed to produce any movement on the scoreboard in this game with Maesteg Celtic, and indeed it was Celtic outside half Matthew Harris who opened the scoring with a 10th minute penalty.

A yellow card for Tondy centre Matthew

Davies was a little harsh and gave the home side the advantage midway through the first half, Harris slotted his second penalty before Tondy No10 Paul Smithson replied to get the visitors on the scoreboard.

Strong pressure from the home side then produced the game's first try when left wing Neil Arthur crashed over from a maul. Harris added the conversion from wide out to give Celtic a deserved 13-3 half-time lead.

The second half started with the visitors on the front foot and after some swift handling from the backs, right wing Sam Grabbham squeezed over in the corner for Tondy's first try.

Harris then kicked his third penalty to secure an eight-point advantage for the home side before further pressure from the visitors saw scrum half Aled Jones ghost in for a wonderful try.

Smithson added the two points to leave the score 16-15 going into the last quarter.

It was now almost all Tondy as they hammered at the home try line; the Celtic players seemed to be out on their feet and surely it was only a matter of time before their defence would crack.

But it was that man again, Matthew Harris, who landed another penalty during a brief period in the Tondy half to take the score to 19-15.

The game ended with relentless Tondy pressure but perhaps a little white line fever and a never-say-die attitude from the Celtic defence somehow kept them out as Maesteg Celtic hung on for a memorable win over their neighbours.

Tondy now entertain Cwmavon at Pandy Park this Saturday, kick-off 2.30pm, and the club have re-signed old favourite Nathan Strong, who had a run out for the seconds against Nantylfyllon.

MS

Porthcawl Bridge Club round-up

THE club recently participated in the WBU Simultaneous Pairs, in which the same deals are played on the same night throughout a number of clubs in Wales.

The event is scored both locally and nationally. John and Rob easily won the local event, but were just pipped into second place nationally.

Latest results from the club are:

Saturday, August 27, random teams: First - Roger Plant and Betty

Longley; Peter and Sandy Jenkins; Second - Trish Saunders and Janet Richards; Terry Dolan and Peter Bennett.

Thursday, September 1: First - Rob Charlesworth and John Beard; Second - Connie Dick and Janet Richards. Saturday, September 3: First - Dil Evans and Pat Haworth; Terry Dolan and Peter Bennett.

Thursday, September

8, WBU Simultaneous Pairs: First - Rob Charlesworth and John Beard; Second - Roger Plant and Terry Dolan.

The club meets twice a week - Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre 6.45pm-9.45pm - visitors welcome at any time.

To contact the club, call our secretary, Trish, on 01656 785794.

TH

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